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PART L.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

99

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part I.

[Correspondence respecting the Rectification of the Greek and Montenegrin Frontiers which does not appear in this Volume will be found in Confidential Papers Nos. 4255 and 4268.]

No. 1.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 248.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 19, 1880.

THE Austrian Vice-Consul at Bourgas having, like Mr. Consul Brophy, reported that an Austrian-protected subject had been stopped by a police officer at Aidos, who had seized upon his person a petition of grievances addressed by the inhabitants of certain Turkish villages to the Great Powers, my Austrian colleague applied to Aleko Pasha officially for the restitution of that document, and requested at the same time a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances under which it had been taken from Ahmed Shakir Bey.

In reply to that demand the Governor-General promised to cause a strict inquiry to be immediately instituted, and to punish any officer who might be found guilty of having exceeded the strict limits of his duty.

The Austrian Consul thereupon told Aleko Pasha personally that he considered such an answer to be merely evasive, and repeated the request which he had made in writing.

After some discussion the Governor-General accepted the course suggested by M. Piombazzi, and promised to cause the petition to be surrendered.

Next day, however, his Excellency addressed a note to M. Piombazzi, stating that having submitted the matter to his Privy Council, the latter had decided—

1. That the bearer of the petition was a citizen of Eastern Roumelia.

2. That the petition was not addressed to the Consular authorities, but to the Great Powers.

3. That it was "not necessary" to give up the petition, as the latter would form the basis of an inquiry into the reality of the "culpable facts" alleged by the Mussulmans, and would also assist in discovering whether the "dark calumnies" contained in that document were not the result of an intrigue on the part of certain persons who desired to foment troubles in the province.

My Austrian colleague replied to that communication that he was glad to learn that an inquiry would be instituted, but at the same time he disputed the necessity of retaining possession of the petition.

Setting aside the somewhat doubtful question of the true nationality of Ahmed Shakir Bey (a Bosnian), M. Piombazzi further stated that he considered the seizure of a document addressed to the Great Powers, and destined to be transmitted to them through their Consular Agents, as a dangerous violation of the principles by which the free exercise of Consular functions is governed in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire. If the action

of the Eastern Roumelian Government on the present occasion, M. Piombazzi urged, were to be accepted without protest, "an entire system of vexatory measures against persons suspected of having relations with a Consulate might be established in the vicinity of the latter."

The Austrian Consul therefore concluded by again requesting the "restitution of the petition" as an equitable and conciliatory solution of the question.

Aleko Pasha has not yet returned an answer.

The following extract from the "Philippoupolis" purports to be a translation of the petition seized by the police officer of Aidos.

I have reason to believe that it was made from the copy of a duplicate which was safely transmitted to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S. *May* 21.—The Governor-General has replied to M. Piombazzi that he cannot, to his great regret, share his views, and restore the petition.

The Austrian Vice-Consul has telegraphed from Bourgas that the bearer of the petition is being prosecuted.

T. M.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May 7/19, 1880.

NOUS publions comme suit copie d'une pétition que les Musulmans, habitants du district d'Actos, viennent d'adresser à MM. les Représentants des Puissances Européennes :—

"Les Soussignés, habitants d'Actos, district du département de Bourgas, demandons pardon pour venir vous importuner avec cette, notre humble pétition, que nous vous prions de vouloir bien prendre en considération pour voir les atrocités et les méfaits que les Bulgares commettent sur nos personnes.

"Nous entrons en matière pour dire tout d'abord que cette province est une création du Traité de Berlin, qui l'a placée sous l'autorité du Sultan. Nous croyons savoir aussi que les Musulmans qui, lors de la dernière guerre, se virent forcés de s'expatrier, pouvaient, aux termes de ce même Traité, rentrer chez eux, pour prendre possession de leurs biens, gagner leur pain en travaillant, vivre en frères avec leurs compatriotes Chrétiens, et s'occuper chacun, dans la mesure de ses forces, à développer les ressources du pays. Malheureusement nous, Musulmans, nous avons été cruellement trompés dans nos espérances, et voici pourquoi.

"Il y a huit mois depuis que nous sommes chez nous. Nos compatriotes Bulgares qui, à notre arrivée, nous avaient très-mal reçus, ne cessèrent tout le temps à nous agacer, à nous insulter, à nous maltraiter, et à nous faire endurer toute espèce de maux. S'étant emparés de nos biens, il nous ont obligés de demeurer pêle-mêle dans de sales trous; ils ont encore fait de plus, ils nous ont enlevé de force notre argent et nous ont pris les seneds qui constituent les titres de nos propriétés. Voulons-nous séparer du reste de nos compatriotes, ils ont empêché des Chrétiens bienveillants de nous venir en aide ou de nous donner n'importe quelle assistance. Il y a de ces Chrétiens qui ont été maltraités pour leurs relations qu'ils ont voulu nouer avec nous.

"Mais oublions le passé, qui n'est rien en comparaison avec les atrocités récentes qu'ils ont commises, et dont nous avons été les victimes innocentes. En voici d'ailleurs des détails circonstanciés :—

"Sous le prétexte qu'il y avait des insurgés aux Balkans, les Bulgares de notre district s'armèrent pour aller leur donner la chasse. Des médecins, des ingénieurs, et les miliciens du district avaient été appelés à prendre part à cette expédition volontaire. Cette armée ainsi improvisée alla droit au village Bayram Allan, qu'elle détruisit en faisant table rase de toutes les habitations. Il vint ensuite le tour du village de Hejeldjak, dont les habitants étaient accusés par leurs voisins Bulgares d'avoir des intelligences avec les insurgés. Ici les miliciens, après avoir enlevé grand nombre d'objets, ont tué Deli Moustafa. Treize autres Bulgares ont pris à Ali Effendi Hoteh la somme de 45,000 piastres, ainsi qu'une grande quantité d'effets. Avec ses biens qu'ils lui ont volés, ils le maltraitèrent encore de la manière la plus cruelle. Deux de ces scélérats sont de Koupru-keuy, les autres de Sevitchli, localités sises dans le district de Messemvria. Tous ces malfaiteurs, sur le compte desquels il ne reste le moindre doute, vont être relâchés, tout comme s'il n'y avait rien à leur reprocher. Que nous avons lieu de regretter l'éloignement d'Iconomos

Effendi, ex-Gouverneur du district. Pendant son administration, nous jouissions d'une parfaite tranquillité; nous circulions librement d'un village à un autre; nous n'étions point molestés dans nos mouvements et dans nos occupations, et l'on ne parlait point d'insurgés dans notre district. Malheureusement on releva de ses fonctions ce fonctionnaire honnête et intelligent, et on lui donna pour successeur un Gouverneur Bulgare.

"Avec ce changement les choses ont pris tout une autre tournure. Ainsi des malfaiteurs ayant pénétré au village Redjib Mahalesi, ont assassiné, avec Moussa et Deli Hassan, gendarmes de la localité, un simple particulier et une vieille femme. Il s'en retirèrent après avoir détruit en y mettant le feu un dépôt de céréales, deux maisons, un grenier, et après avoir volé et enlevé un grand nombre d'objets aux habitants. Il en a été de même pour Kasseklar et Nadir, c'est à dire mêmes assassinats, mêmes vols, et mêmes rapines. Tous ces actes de scélératesse ont été couverts du voile du pardon. Rien n'a été dit ou fait pour venger ceux qui en ont été les victimes.

"Tout dernièrement le Gouverneur sortit pour faire un tour dans ce district. Les gens dont il était accompagné, ont dévalisé et pillé tous les villages par où ils ont passé. A Kezeldjik, ils ont blessé mortellement deux personnes, ont volé 6,000 piastres à Hadji Hassan, et enlevé plusieurs objets de ménage.

"Bref, nous sommes journellement victimes de vols, d'assassinats, et de toute espèce d'avanies. Avant la guerre Actos avait 700 maisons. Il n'en reste aujourd'hui que 200, partagées par 400 familles de Moustafa-Pacha, 200 familles Chrétiennes d'Actos, et de 200 à 300 familles Musulmanes.

"Au mois de Mars dernier nous nous présentâmes à l'autorité pour prendre avec son assistance possession de nos propriétés. Elle nous a déboutés de notre demande. Ce deni de justice a encouragé les Bulgares. Aussi leur entend-on dire sans cesse qu'ici on est en Bulgarie et nullement en Turquie. Les Bulgares ne laissent passer de jour sans nous tracasser.

"A peine la nuit survenue, ils nous forcent de rentrer et de nous enfermer chez nous. Eux se promènent par les rues jusqu'au matin, tirant des coups de feu, folâtrant, s'amusant, et se divertissant de toutes manières. Leur politique est de nous chasser de notre pays. Ils disent que nous ne devons pas entendre la moindre protection de la part des Puissances Européennes. Nous ayant empêchés d'ensemencer nos champs, nous ne savons pas ce que nous deviendrons pendant la saison de l'hiver prochain.

"Au moment que nous écrivons cette pétition, Hassan Effendi, fils de Redjeb, rentre chez lui criblé de coups de balle. L'autorité que nous avons informée de ce malheur, ne semble vouloir s'en inquiéter. Pour finir avec nos lamentations, permettez-nous, bienveillant Monsieur, de vous dire que notre état est déplorable, et qu'aux yeux des Bulgares nous sommes quelque chose moins que des parias. Armés comme ils sont, ils ne cessent de nous traquer juste comme on fait pour des bêtes sauvages. Jusqu'à quand souffrirons-nous tous ces maux dont cette classe par trop priviligiée ne cesse de nous accabler? Ayez la bonté d'intervenir pour y mettre fin.

"En attendant qu'il vous plaise d'agir, veuillez, &c.

(Suivent 54 signatures.)

Le 4/16 Avril, 1880.

No. 2.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 252.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 20, 1880.

GENERAL STRECKER has given me the following version of the circumstances under which a number of Mussulman villages have recently been destroyed in the Aidos Balkans, as reported to Her Majesty's Ambassador by Mr. Consul Brophy.

Under arrangements made between the Government of this province and that of the neighbouring Principality, Bulgarian troops and a certain number of East Roumelian gendarmes were dispatched to guard the principal passes and roads on either side of the frontier, to prevent the crossing of brigands from one territory into the other. A small detachment of Bulgarian troops occupied, in pursuance of that object, the Mussulman villages of Boblova, or Belibé, in the Principality. Here they were attacked by Choban Hassan and Balji Eumer at the head of 300 "brigands," who killed five Bulgarian soldiers, and wounded several others. Reinforcements having been sent, the Bulgarian troops pursued the brigands into Eastern Roumelia, and drove them from village to village, the inhabitants of the villages flying before them to Messemvria, where they were protected and fed by the local authorities.

As soon as these circumstances were reported to Central Government, M. Christovitch, the Secretary-General, remonstrated by telegraph with M. Zancoff, the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Sophia, on the conduct of the Bulgarian troops.

M. Zancoff replied in terms of indignation, and asked M. Christovitch whether he was not aware that the Bulgarian troops had been attacked by 300 armed brigands from Eastern Roumelia.

According to the latest intelligence received by the Local Government, the number of Mussulman villages destroyed is four, not thirteen, as reported two days ago by Mr. Consul Brophy.

The Prefect of Bourgas has also telegraphed that he has made arrangements for sending back and feeding the Mussulman families which had sought refuge at Messemvria. A Procureur had likewise been dispatched to report upon a nocturnal attack which had been made on fifteen of those families which had encamped in some fields after having been refused shelter in a Greek village. There were fortunately no casualties on this occasion, although many shots were fired by the unknown aggressors.

I am unable to vouch for the absolute correctness of any of these reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 3.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 22, 1880.

THE categorical denial by Aleko Pasha of the correctness of the Consular reports made on the subject of the destruction of certain villages in the Aidos Balkans is a striking illustration of the manner in which his Excellency is either deceived himself or attempts to deceive others as to the real state of affairs in this province.

Accustomed as I am to the gross misstatements of the local Bulgarian organs, I was scarcely prepared to hear from my Austrian colleague that the Governor-General had indignantly denied the destruction of any Mussulman villages in this province by troops from the Principality; and particularly after General Strecker had given me an official account of the manner in which those troops has pursued the so-called "brigands" into the territory of this province.

However, the Governor-General actually authorized M. Piombazzi, both personally and, later, through one of his Secretaries, to give a distinct denial to the truth of the reports made by the Austrian and British Vice-Consuls at Bourgas, adding that those reports, like many others which were circulated in respect to the condition of this province, were intentionally malevolent.

Aleko Pasha at first offered to show M. Piombazzi the official reports which he had received from the Prefect, but as the official who had charge of them could not at the time be found, his Excellency exhibited only the reports which he had addressed to the Porte, denying, on the strength of official documents, the alleged destruction of any Mussulman villages in this province.

It is possible that the inquiries which Mr. Consul Brophy instituted on the receipt of my telegram *en clair* asking for exact official information alarmed the local authorities and awakened the Prefect to the danger of persisting in his attempt to conceal the truth.

The Secretary, who called upon the Austrian Consul this afternoon to communicate to him the excuses of the Governor-General, and to exhibit the telegram which Aleko Pasha had just received from the Prefect acknowledging the destruction of four villages, and the partial destruction of another, within the boundaries of this province, added, by his Excellency's orders, that the Secretary-General had telegraphed to the Prefect for more ample information; while on his own part his Excellency had at once dispatched an official to assist at the inquiry which he had ordered to be instituted "for the discovery and punishment of the guilty parties."

There is every reason to apprehend that the barbarous proceedings of the Bulgarian soldiery in the Aidos Balkans are an exact imitation of the outrages recently committed in in the Kirdjali district by the militia and gymnasts of this province.

On the pretext of suppressing "disorders" and alleged acts of brigandage, an undisciplined soldiery, under seditious officers, has been let loose on the Mussulman population with the object of promoting the Slavophil cause, of which Captain Yasheroff, the Russian Commander of the expedition into the Kirdjali district, openly avowed he was the champion.

The Prefect of Bourgas is Dr. Yankoloff, the Bulgarian agitator who accompanied M. Gueshoff on a patriotic mission to Europe. He is no doubt in close intelligence with the agitators in the Principality who, like himself, have been anxious to conceal from public view and reprobation the atrocities which have now been committed in the Aidos Balkans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 4.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 532.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 21, 1880.

M. GRUICH, the Servian Minister, called upon me the day before yesterday to communicate to me the instructions he had received from his Government to press upon the Porte the conclusion, without delay, of the Convention with Servia, for carrying out the XXXVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, relating to the completion of railway communication with the Principality. He informed me that he had been directed to ask for my assistance in the matter. I promised him that I would at once urge the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to come to an agreement with him on the subject, and I accordingly sent Sir A. Sandison to his Excellency yesterday morning, to represent to him the importance of arriving at a settlement of the question. His Excellency informed Sir Alfred that he had just received a memorandum from M. Gruich containing the Servian proposal, which he had referred to the Minister of Public Works, who would give it his consideration, and then submit it to the Council of Ministers for their approval. When it was before the Council it would, his Excellency added, receive his support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the Convention between the Ottoman Minister of Commerce and Messrs. Hanson and Ede, for the establishment of an Ottoman Bank for the Vilayet of Adrianople, which has received the Imperial sanction. I have taken much interest in this scheme, as, if it be successfully carried out, it will be of great advantage to the small landed proprietors, Mussulmans and Christians, who have been deprived of the means of cultivating their lands, and have lost all they possessed in consequence of the late war, and may encourage and develop agriculture in an important province of the Empire.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Ottoman Government undertakes, in the XVIIth Article of the Convention, to use its influence with the Eastern Roumelian Government to grant to the concessionnaires a similar Convention for the establishment of a like bank in Eastern Roumelia. If such a Concession could be obtained for that province, it might be of the greatest benefit to the starving Mussulman refugees who have no means of cultivating the lands which belong to them, or apparently of regaining possession of those of which they have been deprived by the Bulgarians. But I fear that unless some foreign influence be used, there is little chance of the Eastern Roumelian Government, as at present constituted, granting the privilege required to two British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Convention for the Establishment of an Agricultural Bank for the Vilayet of Adrianople.

ARTICLE 1. The Imperial Ottoman Government authorizes Messrs. Charles Hanson and Edward Ede to form an agricultural bank, with a capital of 1,000,000*l.*, for the Vilayet of Adrianople and the Sandjak of Cazni Erbayé.

Art. II. The Bank shall be styled the Ottoman Agricultural Bank, and the term of the Concession shall be fifty years from the date of the Firman.

Art. III. The object of the Bank shall be—

(*a.*) To lend money to agriculturists and landed proprietors on their lands, real estate, crops, and other movable property ("biens mobiliers").

(*b.*) To buy on commission for the agriculturists who may desire it, mowing and thrashing machines, and all other agricultural implements, as also cattle and seeds.

(*c.*) To sell the produce of the cultivators for them on commission when they desire it.

The Bank shall not be allowed to purchase on its own account any produce which may be consigned to it for sale on commission.

Art. IV. The Bank may receive moneys on deposit or in account current, with or without interest.

The Bank shall have the right to engage in all other operations which may be of a nature to encourage the development of agriculture, which is the special object of its creation.

Art. V. The amount of advance to be made on security to be given on the land to be transferred ("vefaën") by the agriculturists shall be fixed in each case by mutual agreement between the Bank and the borrower, and the valuation of the security offered shall rest entirely with the Bank.

Art. VI. The annual interest on advances made as above specified may be taken in advance, and the rate of such interest shall not exceed 10 per cent. per annum.

Art. VII. The Bank shall not demand the repayment of the principal advanced by it to the borrowers before the expiration of fifteen years, provided that the borrowers pay the interest thereon punctually year by year.

The borrowers shall be allowed a delay of grace of two years from the expiration of any year in which interest was received in advance to pay up such interest as may have fallen into arrears. However, in that case, the interest of the second year shall be calculated at 11 per cent. and the interest of the third year at 12 per cent.

If the borrowers should abandon their lands, or neglect to cultivate them after having obtained a loan against them, they shall forfeit the above privilege of the two years' delay of grace, and the Bank shall have the power to sell their property during the second year.

Art. VIII. In the case that the borrower does not pay the moneys borrowed by him, or the interest accruing thereon, at the expiration of three years from the date of the loan, as stipulated in the preceding Article, the Bank shall have the right to sell, by the intervention of the local authorities, the securities, and to transfer the lands made over to it, without having recourse to any Tribunal or instituting any legal proceedings.

Such sale shall at all times be made by public auction, and in the manner stipulated in the Cahier des Charges.

If the borrower should desire to sell his property otherwise than by public auction, the Bank may so act in his interest according to his desire.

The Bank shall have the right of purchasing for its own account the securities put up for sale at public auction, or by private agreement with the borrower.

Art. IX. Although the Bank may acquire such property for its own account, as stated in the preceding Article, the Bank must resell such property, and transfer it to a private party before the expiration of three years.

Art. X. In every case the borrower shall have the right of redeeming his property pledged as security at any period when he shall have repaid the capital and interest thereon of the sum advanced to him, whether by one payment or by payments by instalments.

Art. 11. The Bank shall not be called upon to lay out in such advances upon property more than three-fourths of its capital. It shall, however, have the power to exceed this proportion if it should think fit.

Art. 12. During the first twenty-five years of this Concession the Bank shall be exempt from all transfer duties and other transfer charges on the transfer of property, whether on the transfer of it to the Bank as security for advances, or on its re-transfer to the proprietors, excepting always ("varacha paha") the price of the Government official forms, and ("katibié") the clerk's fees.

The above-mentioned exemption shall cease on the expiration of the first twenty-five years of this Concession. After this period the Bank will be subject to the laws of the Empire in regard to the above exemption.

The above-mentioned exemption, which shall apply only in the Vilayet of Adrianople and the Cazai Erbayé ("home district round Constantinople"), shall be granted exclusively

to this Bank, and cannot be extended to any other banking establishment of this nature, or to any private individuals, in the above-named province and districts.

Art. XIII. The Bank must be formed within four months of the issue of the Firman of Concession, and shall be subject to the laws of the Ottoman Empire.

Art. XIV. The principal seat of the Bank shall be at Constantinople or Adrianople, but it may establish branches at any place in the above-named province or districts necessary for its operations, It may also have a branch in London and Paris.

The Ottoman Government will use its influence with the Eastern Roumelian Government to grant to the concessionnaires of this Bank a similar Convention for the establishment of a like bank in that province.

Art. XV. The Cahier des Charges, drawn up in accordance with the conditions herein set forth, shall be presented to the Imperial Ottoman Government for examination and approval within two months of the date when the formation of the Bank shall have been declared and proved.

Art. XVI. In the case that the Bank be not formed within four months, as specified in Article XIII, the present Convention shall be null and void.

Art. XVII. The present Convention shall not come into force until after the presentation and approval of the Cahier des Charges as above mentioned.

The present Convention having been transcribed textually in the Imperial Firman of Concession, a legalized copy thereof has been communicated to the Ministry of Commerce.

Constantinople, 19 *Djémazil Ewel*, 1297 (28 or 29 *April*, 1880, A.D.).

(This Convention was finally reciprocally signed by the Minister of Commerce, Charles C. Hanson, and Edward F. Ede, on the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ May, 1880, and the Firman delivered to the concessionnaires the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ May, 1880.)

No. 6.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 235.)

St. Petersburgh, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the "Golos" there was a meeting the other day of the Society of the Volunteer Fleet, and I have the honour to inclose herewith in translation an abstract of the proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Substance of Article from the "Golos" of May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

ACCORDING to the "Golos" of the $\frac{13th}{25th}$ May, 1880, a meeting of the Society of the Volunteer Fleet was held on the $\frac{10th}{22nd}$ instant, in the Anitchkin Palace. Mr. Pobedonostseff, President of the Society, opened the meeting by giving a detailed account of the operations of the Committee during the past year.

The chief object of the Society, the President stated, consisted in finding employment for the vessels of the fleet, which, besides being profitable, would promote both the political and commercial interests of the country. With this view the Society had directed particular attention to the connection of Russia with the shores of the Eastern Ocean, in two directions: 1, the necessity of populating the Amur region; and 2, Russia's tea trade with China.

The President then pointed out that Russian possessions in the Sea of Japan were inundated with second-rate goods from Hamburg and America; while Russian produce, which was superior in quality and better suited for local requirements, was rarely met with, and owing to the high cost of transport by way of Siberia or Hamburg, could not compete with cheap foreign goods. In order to do away with such an anomaly, it was necessary to establish regular communication between Odessa, Vladivostock, and Nikolaefsk, and this the Society had decided to do. The difficulty, however, in organizing regular and direct communication with Nikolaefsk, was that the steam cruizers which were intended for ocean service sat too deep in the water to enter the estuary of the Amur; on the other hand, goods forwarded to Vladivostock could not be transported to

Nikolaefsk by water, owing to the inactivity of the "Sahalin" Society. These considerations had induced the Society to purchase the "Vladivostock," which was adapted for navigating the Amur estuaries and the Russian ports in the Sea of Japan.

The President then announced that having obtained a guarantee from the principal firms in Moscow engaged in the tea trade to provide cargoes for the vessels, he had agreed to transport their tea from Hankay to Odessa at a freight of 4*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The Committee had, moreover, contracted with the Ministry of Marine for the yearly transport of prisoners and stores to the Island of Sahalin.

During the winter months it was intended to employ the cruizers in transporting troops and military stores in the Black Sea, and arrangements had already been made for this purpose. It was further intended to undertake the transport of private merchandise.

The Society has established agencies at Fuchoy, Shanghae, Hankay, Nagasáki, Hong Kong, Singapore, Port Said, Marseilles, London, and other ports, as also at Odessa and Vladivostock.

In conclusion, the President laid stress on the importance of developing private naval enterprise as an element of the naval force of the country. Without a commercial fleet to turn out experienced sailors and afford means of transport, and also cruizers, the naval fleet could never attain its full development, no matter how large the sums expended on it.

The meeting terminated by an election of officers and 163 new members.

No. 7.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 76.)

Bucharest, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

SOME weeks ago the good understanding of Roumania with Bulgaria was seriously disturbed by the accusations rather recklessly made on the subject of the facilities which brigands were supposed to find in crossing from the Dobrudscha on Bulgarian territory.

These charges against the administration of the new Roumanian acquisition are supposed to have been first made in a note addressed to Mr. Ashburnham by the Government at Sophia; but, as I have not been so fortunate as to receive a copy of this document, I am not acquainted by hearsay with these allegations, which are denied at Bucharest.

I beg to inclose a French copy of an extensive Report addressed by M. Oprean, the Prefect of Constanza (Kustendje) to his Government, with reference to these Bulgarian accusations, and showing them to be groundless.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Report of the Prefect of Constanza to the Minister of the Interior; dated March 31, 1880.

DÈS réception des premières informations relatives à la perturbation de l'ordre dans les régions Bulgares limitrophes du district de Constanza, j'ai pris des mesures énergiques pour obtenir une vigilance incessante de la part des autorités administratives, et une surveillance rigoureuse et efficace de la frontière.

Du côté Roumain, l'ordre ne laissait rien à désirer; partout pleine sécurité sur la voie publique; entière garantie pour la personne et les biens des habitants.

Toutefois, de peur que le mal du pays voisin ne se propageât par contagion jusqu'à ce district, et mû par des considérations d'intérêt public, j'ai cru devoir agir comme je l'ai signalé plus haut.

Vos ordres télégraphiques me sont arrivés au moment où je me disposais à passer l'inspection de l'arrondissement de Nouvelle Silistrie. Les rapports que je recevais des Administrateurs des arrondissements-frontière me mettaient à même de connaître exactement la situation, et de vous donner des informations véridiques et complètes.

Je n'étais pas en droit de suspecter les assertions qui me parvenaient quotidiennement sur la parfaite tranquillité des localités Roumaines, et sur la nécessité de consacrer la plus

sérieuse attention à la garde de la frontière, afin d'empêcher quelque bande armée venant de Bulgarie de pénétrer furtivement sur notre territoire.

Mon absolue confiance dans le zèle, le dévouement, et la probité scrupuleuse des Administrateurs des arrondissements de Mangalia et Nouvelle Silistrie m'interdisaient de concevoir le moindre doute sur la véracité de leurs rapports, et sur leur exactitude infatigable à se conformer consciencieusement à mes ordres.

Cependant, M. le Ministre, je me suis empressé de me transporter aussitôt sur les lieux, afin d'examiner par moi-même ce que pouvaient avoir de fondé les allégations des autorités Bulgares.

Selon vos instructions, je me suis mis tout d'abord en relations avec M. le Gouverneur du district de Silistrie, qui réside en cette ville. Dans l'entretien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec lui, à son konak, et qui a duré plus de deux heures, il a bien voulu me fournir sur les désordres dont son district est le théâtre tous les renseignements en sa possession. Je prends la liberté de vous en présenter ci-dessous le fidèle résumé.

Deux ou trois bandes de Turcs armés parcourent le district de Silistrie: ces bandes comptent chacune de quinze à trente hommes. Il est difficile d'établir à leur sujet des données précises; mais il est avéré que depuis le commencement de Février de l'année courante, elles infestent les parages voisins de la frontière Roumaine jusqu'à une distance de 20 à 30 kilom. dans l'intérieur de la Bulgarie. Des bandes semblables opéreraient dans les districts de Bazardjik, Varna, et Schoumla. M. le Gouverneur n'a pu spécifier de quelle localité sont originaires les Turcs qui les composent; mais il est en position de savoir que ces bandits proviennent de Roumélie et surtout de Bulgarie; peut-être aussi quelques-uns d'entre eux seraient-ils des Turcs émigrés de Bulgarie en Dobrugia, et campés sur la frontière. Les indications de M. le Gouverneur à cet égard ont d'ailleurs été vagues et indéterminées.

Je n'ai pas manqué d'observer que les Turcs qui ont fui l'année dernière la Bulgarie pour s'installer dans la Dobrugia sont peu nombreux; que la plupart d'entre eux se sont établis à Tchernavoda, Constanza, Babadagh, sans avoir les moyens et sans manifester la moindre velléité de se déplacer encore; que les Musulmans, qui naguère habitaient la Bulgarie et se sont fixés dans les communes rurales de la Dobrugia, ne peuvent inspirer, vu leur nombre et leurs dispositions, que des sentiments de compassion; que tous les Musulmans de la Dobrugia se montrent fort soumis à l'autorité Roumaine, et se félicitent de vivre sous l'égide de lois qui entourent de garanties effectives leur religion, leur famille, leurs personnes, et leurs biens; que leur unique souci est de chercher à réparer par un travail sans relâche les pertes immenses que leur a causées la dernière guerre.

M. le Gouverneur se décida alors à consulter ses dossiers et à me communiquer les noms des bandits portés à sa connaissance: J'en ai pris notice exacte et je les énumère ci-dessous.

Les malfaiteurs Turcs, habitants de Bulgarie et réfugiés dans la commune de Calaigi, distante de 10 kilom. de la frontière Roumaine, sont: Kenan Ali, Kenan Sali, Kenan Ahmet, Kenan Ibis, Kenan Beitula, Sali Hodja, Hadji Ibrahim Bilaloglou, Ahmet Hussein,—puis Murat Pelivan, habitant de Silistrie de Bulgarie. Ce dernier, après un voyage à Constantinople, serait venu dans la Dobrugia et aurait fui de nouveau à Constantinople.

D'autres Turcs encore, qui jadis habitaient la province de Bulgarie, seraient venus renforcer ces bandes. Aux termes des déclarations de M. le Gouverneur, ces détails auraient été fournis à l'autorité Bulgare soit par ceux des malfaiteurs qui ont été pris, soit par des personnes du district. En fin de compte, M. le Gouverneur prie le Gouvernement Roumain d'expulser les Turcs émigrés de Bulgarie, de prohiber le passage des Turcs de Dobrugia en Bulgarie *et vice versâ*, et de prendre des mesures telles que tout espoir d'échapper fût ravi à ceux qui seraient soupçonnés d'entretenir des relations avec les malfaiteurs.

Cet exposé des indications de M. le Gouverneur du district de Silistrie a pu vous convaincre, M. le Ministre, qu'il n'a pas fait la moindre mention d'une seule bande qui se serait organisée sur le territoire Roumain, et de là se livrerait à des incursions en Bulgarie. J'ai eu à cœur de bien élucider en sa présence ce point d'une importance capitale. Il m'a catégoriquement répondu qu'il ne saurait rien affirmer à cet égard, faute de preuves.

Mais il est un autre fonctionnaire Bulgare qui m'a déclaré que les bandes de brigands se formaient sur le territoire Roumain. C'est le chef de la police de la ville de Silistrie, qui a reçu de l'autorité supérieure mission spéciale de poursuivre et de détruire les malfaiteurs Turcs. Il s'est engagé à conduire à bonne fin cette entreprise, sous sa respon-

sabilité. Aussi bat-il le pays en tout sens, à la tête de compagnies de l'armée Bulgare et d'habitants Bulgares en armes (milice). La région est couverte de bois épais et coupée de profonds ravins; il est dès lors très-difficile de s'emparer des malfaiteurs. Ceux-ci, après s'être réunis en nombre, n'ont pas craint d'attaquer en lutte ouverte, le 19 Mars dernier, la troupe Bulgare: quatre soldats sont tombés morts, et deux blessés, comme il ressort d'une lettre adressée par le Commandant Russe de la Compagnie Bulgare qui avait éprouvé ces pertes au Capitaine d'un des piquets Roumains.

J'ai eu des entrevues avec le Chef de la Police de la ville de Silistrie, avec le Commandant Russe du bataillon Bulgare, avec le Président du Conseil du district et avec le Président du Tribunal, tous en fonctions à Silistrie. Le Commandant, qui avait pris personnellement part à la poursuite des brigands, déclara qu'il ne croyait pas que la bande se fût formée dans la Dobrugia, et qu'il avait télégraphié dans ce sens à Schoumla. Mais le Chef de Police invoqua, comme preuves que la bande s'était organisée sur le territoire Roumain, les circonstances suivantes:

Dans le voisinage de Kadikieuï, la milice Bulgare avait découvert, sur la ligne-frontière, les traces de trente-deux hommes. Une Bohémienne avait révélé que des Turcs de la Dobrugia entraient dans la composition de la bande. Des nouvelles venues de Constanza avaient signalé que vingt Turcs armés avaient débarqué, avec permission de la Préfecture. L'autorité Roumaine avait également permis à vingt Tcherkess de s'établir dans la Dobrugia. Ismaïl Aga, de Hairankieuï, village Turc situé du côté Roumain de la frontière, commandait une bande, où figuraient Sali-Ali, Ahmet Pelivan, et d'autres brigands, originaires de Velikieuï, village Roumain. Hassan Pelivan, également de Velikieuï, avait même été tué dans le combat contre la force armée Bulgare. Enfin un certain Musa Ali de Saradja (Bulgarie), traqué par la milice Bulgare, s'est réfugié sur le sol Roumain.

Mes réponses amenèrent le Chef de la Police de Silistrie à reconnaître que les informations par lui reçues de Constanza sur les Tcherkess et les vingt Turcs armés étaient entièrement inexactes. Il a même cru convenable de me présenter ses excuses au sujet d'allégations que le premier habitant venu du chef-lieu de ma Préfecture qualifierait de calomnieuses. Mais il a cru devoir maintenir qu'en raison des autres circonstances il ne saurait exclure l'hypothèse de la formation des bandes armées Turques sur le territoire Roumain. L'attitude et la conduite de l'administration et de la force armée de la Dobrugia ont été impuissantes à ébranler la conviction du Chef de Police. En vain ai-je expliqué que le fait de l'existence de bandes en Bulgarie n'autorisait nullement la conclusion quelles se formaient en Roumanie, et qu'il fallait vraiment une grande complaisance pour admettre comme preuves les circonstances qu'il avait citées: Il persista dans son opinion.

Il ne me restait plus qu'à procéder à l'enquête la plus minutieuse. Aussi bien, le simple soupçon que les faits signalés par le Chef de la Police de Silistrie avaient pu se produire sur le territoire Roumain réclamait de ma part l'adoption de mesures plus énergiques encore que par le passé.

A Ostrov, Chef-lieu de l'arrondissement de Nouvelle Silistrie, arrondissement expressément désigné par le Chef de la Police de Silistrie, de Bulgarie, comme lieu de formation des bandes Turques armées, nul n'avait connaissance ni même soupçon de la possibilité de la formation des bandes en question. J'ai pris, directement et indirectement, des informations de tous côtés. Partout la même opinion: Si les affirmations des autorités Bulgares étaient exactes, s'il était vrai qu'il existât des bandes de brigands, ces bandes ne pouvaient se recruter que parmi les Turcs de Bulgarie, exaspérés par les mauvais traitements qu'ils avaient à subir, et poussés par le désespoir à prendre les armes. Autorités locales et habitants, tous, sans exception, ont manifesté la plus vive surprise des bruits récemment répandus par l'autorité Bulgare, impuissante à détruire ou seulement à réfréner le mal sur son territoire.

Le 21 Mars au matin, j'ai commencé une tournée d'inspection et d'examen des localités soupçonnées. Je me suis arrêté d'abord au village le plus voisin d'Ostrov, à Essenkieuï.

Ce village compte 228 Bulgares, 196 Turcs, 180 Tartares, habitants d'ancienne date. Ces derniers, émigrés lors de la guerre, sont revenus à leurs foyers. Malgré les différences de religion, les habitants de ce village vivent aujourd'hui en bonne intelligence. Il est vrai qu'au 22 Janvier de l'année dernière, les Bulgares s'étaient soulevés contre les Turcs et contre l'autorité Roumaine, et voulaient mettre à mort le maire, qui était alors un Turc (aujourd'hui c'est un Bulgare). L'ordre fut rétabli le même jour, sans violence. Les principaux coupables furent déférés à la justice, et condamnés chacun à dix jours de prison et 33 fr. d'amende. Depuis lors, la plus grande tranquillité n'a cessé de régner dans le village, et les relations entre les habitants sont satisfaisantes au plus haut degré.

J'ai relevé dans cet endroit un fait de nature à jeter une vive lumière sur la valeur des imputations adressées à l'administration du district.

Parmi les perturbateurs du 22 Janvier, 1879, figurait un Bulgare du nom d'Alexis Nicolaeff. Après le prononcé de la sentence du Tribunal, vers le mois de Juin 1879, cet individu se réfugia en Bulgarie avec sa famille, afin de se soustraire à la peine que la justice Roumaine lui avait infligée.

Le 11 Janvier dernier, Alexis Nicolaeff revient de Bulgarie, se réinstalle dans son ancienne maison, à Essenkieuï, se présente au parquet du Tribunal d'Ostrov et demande à purger sa peine, afin de pouvoir vivre en Roumanie; car il ne fait pas bon vivre en Bulgarie.

Lors de ma visite, tous les habitants d'Essenkieuï, Mahométans et Chrétiens, se trouvaient sur le territoire de la commune, dans le village même ou aux champs. Les Bulgares que j'ai interrogés m'ont répondu qu'aucun Turc de leur village n'a pu prendre part aux méfaits commis en Bulgarie. Il arrive parfois à certains d'entre eux de se rendre au delà de la frontière, munis de billets de quarante-huit heures, pour des affaires de famille ou d'intérêt, comme par le passé. Mais ils ne manquent jamais de revenir, sans que jamais un seul ait prêté au moindre soupçon de connivence avec une bande. Des Bulgares passent aussi la frontière dans des conditions et pour des motifs analogues.

Essenkieuï sert de garnison à une compagnie d'infanterie et à trente soldats de cavalerie, à qui sont confiés la garde des piquets et le service des patrouilles sur la frontière. Tant les officiers et les soldats Roumains, qui sont en contact perpétuel avec la population, que la mairie de la commune se sont refusés à admettre la possibilité de la réunion, du côté Roumain de la frontière, d'individus en armes, leur nombre ne dépassât-il pas même trois. En effet, la population n'a pas d'armes; à peine trouverait-on dans de rares communes quelques fusils à pierre, réservés aux patrouilles qui circulent la nuit, conformément à la loi de police rurale.

D'Essenkieuï je me suis transporté à Buyuk Karvan et Kutchuk Karvan, villages distants de 1 kilom. environ l'un de l'autre, sur la ligne-frontière, et possédant une compagnie d'infanterie et un peloton de cavalerie, pour le service des piquets et des patrouilles entre les piquets. Les deux villages ont une population entièrement Turque, de 600 âmes. Les habitants, agriculteurs, sont paisibles et laborieux. Tous étaient sur le territoire communal. Je n'ai trouvé là d'étrangers qu'un vieillard et une veuve, qui vivent de la charité des habitants, et deux familles émigrées lors de la guerre, et actuellement en route pour regagner leur village natal, Bahi-Kujusi, près Kusgun.

Malgré les investigations les plus minutieuses, je n'ai pas plus découvert dans les deux Karvan qu'ailleurs le moindre indice qu'un Turc quelconque soit entré dans une des bandes qu'on prétend s'être formées, entre autres localités, à Karvan même, pour infester une partie de la Bulgarie. Deux anciens officiers de l'armée Ottomane, qui habitent ces villages—un vieux Major (Bimbacha), du nom de Hadji Ismaïl, et un sous-lieutenant, m'ont déclaré qu'ils étaient résolus à devenir citoyens Roumains, qu'ils étaient heureux de vivre sous les lois et les autorités Roumaines, et de pouvoir enfin respirer en sûreté et s'occuper en paix de leurs affaires. Quel intérêt trouverait-on, dans ces conditions, à abandonner femmes et enfants, pour se jeter dans une lutte qui conduirait fatalement à de nouveaux malheurs?

Un jour avant mon arrivée à Karvan, M. le Capitaine Macri, Commandant de la compagnie, avait reçu de M. le Colonel Gorjan, Chef à Ostrov du 4e Régiment d'infanterie, des renseignements sur la lutte du 19 Mars entre les bandits et les soldats Bulgares.

Trois Bulgares, porteurs de la lettre du Colonel, et arrivant de Kaïnardji (Bulgarie) affirmaient que, parmi les Turcs qui s'étaient battus contre les soldats Bulgares, avaient été reconnus les nommés Hussein Pelivan et Ahmet Pelivan, l'un maire, l'autre habitant de la commune de Velikieuï, village Roumain. Le Capitaine envoya aussitôt à Velikieuï, vingt-quatre heures à peine après le combat. Hussein Pelivan et Ahmet Pelivan se trouvaient dans la commune, et vaquaient à leurs affaires. Les trois Bulgares et l'émissaire du Capitaine étaient les premiers à leur apprendre les événements qui venaient de se passer au delà de la frontière. Le village de Velikieuï est à une distance d'environ 15 kilom. de la Bulgarie.

Les affirmations positives de MM. les officiers et des soldats, sans parler de la population, m'ont donné la profonde conviction qu'il ne s'est pas trouvé à Karvan un seul homme qui ait franchi la frontière dans le but de grossir les bandes de Bulgarie, et *à fortiori* que nul, sur le territoire Roumain, n'a songé à s'armer ou à organiser des bandes, armées ou non.

J'avais hâte d'arriver à Kadikieuï, endroit particulièrement signalé au Gouvernement comme lieu de formation des bandes armées, destinées à passer la frontière. Dès mon entrée

dans la commune, je trouvai toute la population en proie à une violente panique. La majorité des habitants voulait fuir à l'intérieur de la Dobrugia. Ils ne croyaient plus leur vie en sûreté, malgré la présence, sur la frontière, de la troupe régulière Roumaine. Je venais à temps pour arrêter l'émigration, à la tête de laquelle s'était placé le maire même de la commune. Quelle était la raison de cette panique? Voici, en résumé, le rapport de l'autorité militaire du lieu.

Le village est assis sur deux collines, à cheval sur une vallée qui sépare le quartier Tartare du quartier Ture. Cette vallée débouche dans une autre, qui sert de frontière. Sur les collines qui surplombent cette seconde vallée, à l'opposé de Kadikieuï, apparaît, vers 9 heures du matin, une troupe de Bulgares, forte de 150 hommes armés, et composée d'une compagnie Bulgare et de villageois Bulgares en armes. Cette troupe commence à descendre la colline, et se dirige vers la vallée qui s'étend entre la frontière et le village.

Le sergent, Nitza Constantinesco, qui était de service, court au devant d'elle, et l'arrête dans la vallée même, sur la ligne-frontière, à quelques pas de la commune. Il demande au Commandant Russe de la compagnie Bulgare ce qui l'amène. Celui-ci réplique qu'il poursuit une bande de brigands, parmi lesquels il a reconnu plusieurs habitants de Kadikieuï et de Teke-Deresi, village Roumain du voisinage, à population Turque. Sur la sommation du sergent Roumain, la troupe Bulgare qui était suivie de deux chariots chargés de cartouches, se retire à courte distance de la frontière, et forme les faisceaux.

Le sergent se met bénévolement à la disposition du Commandant Russe, et s'offre à se rendre avec lui et les hommes qui prétendaient avoir reconnu des habitants de Kadikieuï et de Teke-Deresi dans ces deux villages, pour une enquête. Les habitants sont réunis et confrontés. Nul ne fut reconnu, et pourtant les deux villages étaient au complet. La troupe Bulgare remonta la colline et se retira. Mais la terreur inspirée par son attitude à la population était indescriptible. Les femmes et les enfants pleuraient, gémissaient et fuyaient dans les forêts voisines, cherchant les abris les plus cachés, comme aux temps des guerres les plus cruelles.

L'épouvante de la population Tartare, de toutes la plus inoffensive, était au comble. Quant à la population Turque, le manque d'armes exaspérait encore son indignation. Que fût-il arrivé, si l'Administration Roumaine n'avait pas dès longtemps la précaution de réunir toutes les armes? Un fait encore contribua à augmenter la terreur panique. Les soldats Roumains n'avaient pas été concentrés immédiatement, comme il l'eût fallu, en présence d'une troupe qui s'avançait en bataille vers la frontière, sans qu'on pût se rendre compte de ses intentions.

A mes observations à cet égard, il a été répondu que la démonstration de la troupe Bulgare n'avait pas été considérée comme sérieuse, et qu'il aurait suffi d'un seul signal pour réunir en un instant des soldats en nombre tel qu'une agression aurait été repoussée avec succès. En effet, l'attitude belliqueuse de la troupe Bulgare pouvait n'avoir pas de quoi préoccuper les soldats Roumains; mais je n'en ai pas moins constaté que cette troupe avait tenu à faire une manifestation armée contre la population Musulmane. Je me suis convaincu du reste que ses commandants savaient parfaitement qu'aucun habitant ni de Kadikieuï ni de Teke-Deresi n'avait franchi la frontière pour se battre contre les Bulgares, et que la formation de bandes armées à Kadikieuï ou dans quelqu'autre village Roumain était une pure fable inventée à plaisir, et dont l'origine et le but sont ignorés. Les Bulgares s'étaient retirés, satisfaits d'avoir porté la frayeur parmi la population Musulmane de la Dobrugia. Ils ne s'en tinrent pas là, et renouvelèrent la menace qu'ils avaient déjà lancée quelques jours auparavant contre Kadikieuï: sous peu, invasion et incendie du village la nuit, et massacre des habitants.

Kadikieuï compte une population de 150 Turcs et 115 Tartares. Ce sont tous des habitants paisibles et laborieux. Dix familles seules manquent encore parmi celles qui avaient émigré lors de la guerre. Il n'y a d'étrangers dans le village que quinze familles, dont l'établissement remonte à plusieurs mois. Ces familles ont dû, disent-elles, "quitter la Bulgarie pour échapper aux mauvais traitements qui en rendent le séjour intolérable aux Mahométans, et sont venues chercher un asile sur le sol hospitalier de la Dobrugia Roumaine."

J'ai mentionné plus haut qu'il y a à Kadikieuï une compagnie d'infanterie. Nul n'a la moindre notion de la formation ou de l'intention de formation, là ou ailleurs, sur le territoire Roumain, d'une bande armée destinée à des incursions en Bulgarie. Voulût-on admettre un instant qu'un Mussulman aurait le désir de quitter sa famille, de renoncer à la vie tranquille qui lui est garantie dans la Dobrugia, et de réunir quelques compagnons afin d'aller batailler contre des Bulgares, comment croire qu'il pourrait mettre son projet à exécution sous les yeux des soldats Roumains et de l'administration Princière, qui, je ne

crains pas de l'affirmer hautement, connaît l'esprit dont est animée la population et les courants de l'opinion?

Je résolus de passer la nuit à Kadikieuï, localité représentée avec insistance par les autorités Bulgares comme un repaire de malfaiteurs. Je ne voulais rien négliger pour arriver à la découverte de la vérité, par tous les moyens dont je disposais. Je mis tout en œuvre; mais, je dus quitter ce village en sentant redoubler ma surprise au sujet d'accusations dont s'étonne d'ailleurs toute la population du district.

Au moment où j'allais pénétrer dans Teke-Dereski, j'aperçus dix femmes Turques et autant d'enfants, qui descendaient la colline et se dirigeaient de la forêt vers le village. Il était 9 heures du matin. Au courant, comme je le suis, des mœurs Musulmanes, je ne pouvais m'expliquer comment des femmes seules sortaient de la forêt à une heure aussi matinale. J'appris bientôt la vérité. Les événements de Kadikieuï avaient répandu la terreur jusqu'à Teke-Dereski et même, comme je l'ai su plus tard, parmi toute la population de la frontière Roumaine.

Ces femmes revenaient de Dobromir où elles s'étaient réfugiées et avaient passé la nuit. Dobromir est situé à 10 kilom. environ à l'intérieur, et sert de résidence à un escadron de cavalerie ("roschiori").

Tous les habitants se trouvaient présents dans la commune, mais les travaux des champs avaient été interrompus, à cause des récents événements. Les hommes se consultaient entre eux, et discutaient, comme à Kadikieuï, l'idée d'abandonner le village. Une autre question se présentait. Comme à Kadikieuï, et à considérer la ligne-frontière actuelle comme bonne, une grande partie des terrains de labour des habitants de Dobromir est rattachée à la Bulgarie. Or, depuis quelque temps, les Bulgares les empêchent d'aller travailler leurs champs. Huit jours auparavant, une troupe de villageois Bulgares en armes avait tiré sur Mustapha Mehmet, de Kadikieuï, pendant qu'il travaillait à son champ. On avait même tiré sur un soldat Roumain. J'ai pris des mesures pour donner plus de sécurité à leur travail; mais comment espérer qu'ils se mettront avec confiance à l'ouvrage quand, à tout moment, les Bulgares les menacent de ruine et de mort?

Teke-Deresi compte 230 Turcs et 25 Tartares, et seulement quatre familles étrangères au village, venues de Bulgarie, et établies là depuis sept mois—trois Turques et une Tartare. Pas le moindre vestige ni le moindre symptôme de la formation d'une bande de brigands. Comme précédemment, j'ai dû constater qu'un fait de cette nature était impossible. Sur la lisière du village se trouve un piquet d'infanterie, et dans le village même six soldats de cavalerie, sous les ordres d'un sergent. La population n'a pas d'armes. Il suffit de traverser Kadikieuï et Teke-Deresi pour apprécier la valeur des allégations et des bruits répandus au sujet des bandes armées formidables qui s'organiseraient dans ses villages pour se jeter sur la Bulgarie.

De là j'ai passé à Redjeb-Kujusi, village Musulman composé de 220 Turcs et 65 Tartares, situé à proximité du village Bulgare de Kranova. Aucun des habitants de Redjeb-Kujusi ne s'était rendu en Bulgarie; tous étaient présents. Les villages Musulmans de la Dobrugia ont des liens de famille et d'intérêt avec les villages Musulmans de l'autre côté de la frontière; mais nul n'ose passer en Bulgarie pour voir ses parents, tant est vive la frayeur inspirée par les autorités et les habitants Bulgares. J'ai relevé un fait de nature à justifier, au moins en partie, les craintes des habitants de la Commune de Redjeb-Kujusi. Il y a un mois Saïd Hadji Moustapha s'était rendu au grand village Bulgare de Kranova, pour acheter des provisions de blé et de maïs. Il arriva sain et sauf jusque là, et reçut l'hospitalité chez Seli Tonase, qu'il connaissait auparavant. C'est là qu'il prit son repas, et acheta deux ocques de blé et deux ocques de maïs. Saïd Hadji Moustapha se rendit encore chez le Tchiorbadji ("Maire") de Kranova. Depuis, toute trace de lui a été perdue. Son père, Hadji Moustapha, tient ces détails de plusieurs Bulgares qu'il avait priés de prendre des informations à Kranova. La conviction du village entier de Teke-Deresi est que Saïd Hadji Moustapha a été tué à Kranova. Les habitants m'ont affirmé qu'une famille Tartare qui revenaient de Chioséler, village de l'arrondissement de Medjidie, a également disparu tout entière à Kranova.

A Redjeb-Kujusi, j'étais à même de prendre les renseignements les plus précis sur le compte d'Ismaïla ("Ismaïl Aga") de Hairankieuï, accusé maintenant encore par les autorités Bulgares d'être Chef d'une bande des plus dangereuses. Yussuf Effendi, l'un des hodjas les plus distingués de la Dobrugia, et récemment élu membre du Tribunal Musulman, venait précisément de quitter Ismaïla. Ce dernier, homme considéré, Notable de la population Musulmane, s'occupe de ses intérêts journaliers, et mène au grand jour, sous les yeux des soldats et de l'Administration Roumaine, l'existence la plus paisible. Cependant les autorités Bulgares persistent à répandre le bruit que c'est lui qui recrute sur le territoire Roumain ces bandes armées, qu'il se met à leur tête, et entre en lutte en Bulgarie contre la force publique. Le Commandant Russe de la troupe Bulgare

écrit aux capitaines des points Roumains de lui envoyer Ismaïla, dont la tête est mise à prix en Bulgarie!

J'ajouterai une observation: Ismaïla et Alis Pashas, avec ses frères, du village Roumain de Cosluga, ont été pendant la dernière guerre les protecteurs des Chrétiens. C'est surtout à leur protection que les villages Chrétiens de l'arrondissement de Nouvelle Silistrie doivent d'avoir échappé aux exactions et aux déprédations des Tcherkess.

Et ce sont Alis Pasha et ses frères que les Bulgares viennent désigner comme appartenant aux prétendus Comités organisés par les Turcs du territoire Roumain pour former des bandes destinées à des incursions en Bulgarie! Alis Pasha se trouve actuellement à Constantinople. Je n'ai pu découvrir dans tout le district le moindre indice d'un Comité quelconque, du caractère de ceux dont il est question.

Si la moindre tentative en ce sens s'était produite, l'Administration Roumaine l'aurait-elle donc autorisée?

Arrivé au village de Kalaïdji, dont traite votre office No. 4209 du 11 Mars, et que M. le Gouverneur de Silistrie m'avait signalé comme un repaire de malfaiteurs, je convoquai tous les habitants. Tous se rendirent à mon appel, car ceux qui étaient aux champs ou au bois se trouvaient sur le territoire de la commune. D'étrangers dans le village, il n'y a que quelques malheureux Turcs et Tartares incapables du moindre méfait. J'ai pris des informations sur les nommés Kenan Ali, Kenan Sali, Kenan Ahmet, Kenan Ibis, Beitula Hodja et Hadjioglou Ibrahim. Ces deux derniers sont inconnus à Kalaïdji. Les cinq premiers ont effectivement appartenu au village avec leurs familles.

Arrivés depuis plusieurs mois de Bulgarie, ils avaient cherché à s'établir dans la commune. Mais soupçonnés sans cesse par les autorités Bulgares, surveillés par les autorités Roumaines, auxquelles ils étaient constamment signalés comme des bandits qui commettaient leurs méfaits en Bulgarie, puis se réfugiaient sur notre territoire, exposés à des suspicions vexatoires, ils trouvèrent une telle existence intolérable. Bien qu'ils n'eussent pas quitté la commune une seule fois, et que leur conduite eût été sans reproche, désespérant de jouir à Kalaïdji du repos qu'ils cherchaient, ils emmenèrent leurs familles et partirent pour Babadagh, à l'intérieur de la Dobrugia, afin d'échapper à leurs maux. Le hasard a voulu que je les rencontrasse, lorsque j'allais en toute hâte de Constanza à Ostrov. Je traversais le village de Karanlik, situé à égale distance entre Parakioui et Kusgun, quand je croisai cinq chariots, attelés chacun de deux chevaux ou de deux bœufs, sur la route de Babadagh. Hommes et femmes du convoi avaient l'air effrayé, la physionomie terrifiée de malheureux qui fuient à l'approche de l'ennemi. Aux questions de mon interprète, l'un d'eux répondit qu'ils étaient de Kalaïdji, et allaient à Babadagh. C'est là cette troupe des Kenan que l'autorité Bulgare soutient avoir abandonné leurs familles à Kalaïdji et s'être incorporée dans les bandes de Bulgarie.

Le village de Kalaïdji compte 239 habitants, tous Musulmans: il est à 10 kilom. de la frontière, et voisin du village Roumain de Parakioui. Les habitants sont dans la dernière misère. La guerre leur a tout enlevé. Quinze familles du village sont encore à Constantinople, mais il m'a été certifié qu'elles vont revenir bientôt. Le manque de bétail a forcément diminué les labours dans ces parages. Le travail de la culture est très-pénible. Là non plus, je n'ai pu trouver aucun indice sérieux qu'une bande serait partie de Kalaïdji pour la Bulgarie.

J'ai encore visité Giuvegea, Kuru-Orman, Kuiudjuk, villages Musulmans. Kuiudjuk comprend 382 Mahométans et 330 Bulgares. Nulle part je n'ai trouvé la moindre trace de bande armée ni découvert chez un seul Turc la moindre disposition d'aller se battre contre les Bulgares. Les habitants, tous présents sur les territoires de leurs communes respectives, étaient occupés aux travaux agricoles, retardés, par la longueur exceptionnelle de l'hiver. De ces trois villages Giuvegea est le plus important par sa position et par le chiffre de ses habitants. Les Musulmans, au nombre de 281, y ont toujours été et y sont estimés et considérés entre tous par leur probité et leur bonne conduite.

Jamais jusqu'à ce jour on n'a osé les soupçonner du moindre méfait. Quelle preuve, si minime qu'elle soit, l'autorité Bulgare peut-elle fournir qu'un seul habitant de Giuvegea ait été grossir une bande en Bulgarie?

A Kuru-Orman, il eût été plus naturel que M. le Chef de la Police de Silistrie eût le soupçon que quelques habitants méditaient une vengeance. En effet, le 11 Juin de l'année passée une bande de quinze brigands de Kranova (Bulgarie) arrivée furtivement sous bois, envahit le village en plein jour, tue deux Turcs, en blesse et torture plusieurs autres, dévaste les maisons et jette une indescriptible terreur à Kuru-Orman et dans tous les villages Ottomans et Chrétiens des environs. Les rapports de Juin dernier ont porté ces faits à la connaissance du Ministère. Les mesures les plus énergiques avaient été prises pour la découverte des brigands. L'instruction a établi qu'ils étaient tous Bulgares, domiciliés dans le village de Kranova. Mais la justice Roumaine est restée impuissante, et

n'a pu obtenir des autorités Bulgares la livraison ni la punition des criminels. Malgré toutes ces circonstances, nul, à Kuru-Orman, ne songe à la vengeance. La population est résolue à oublier les maux du passé, et ne demande que la sécurité du présent et de l'avenir, sécurité dont elle jouit, je ne crains pas de l'affirmer, et dont elle continuera à jouir, sous le régime des lois Roumaines dans la Dobrugia. Ainsi les accusations portées contre les habitants de Kuru-Orman sont absolument sans fondement. D'ailleurs personne de la commune n'était absent.

Je me suis rendu à Velikioui. C'est un village entièrement Musulman, composé de 180 Turcs et 11 Tartares. C'est à Velikioui, assure l'autorité Bulgare, que se trouvent Hassan Pelivan, Murat Pelivan, Rustem Pelivan, ennemis acharnés des Bulgares, et membres des bandes qui dévastent ce pays: comme preuve irrécusable de cette participation, M. le Chef de la Police de Silistrie citait ce fait qu'Hassan Pelivan avait été tué dans une lutte avec la troupe Bulgare.

Je réunis tous les habitants originaires de Velikioui. Etaient absents seulement ceux qui travaillaient avec les cinq seules charrues que la commune avait pu mettre en activité. Toute la majeure partie des habitants a été ruinée par la guerre!

Quelle fut ma surprise, quand je trouvai la victime du combat contre les troupes Bulgares, Hassan Pelivan, en vie et plein de santé Hassan est un vénérable vieillard de 65 ans, probe et respecté de tous. Entouré d'une nombreuse famille, il vit surtout pour ses enfants. On ne saurait faire à ce vieillard l'injure de le soupçonner d'appartenir à une bande de brigands.

Ahmet Pelivan était également dans la commune. Il est rangé parmi les plus honnêtes et les plus paisibles de ses habitants.

Pouvait-il être en même temps dans la commune et dans une bande au delà de la frontière? Loin de songer à des attaques contre leurs voisins, les habitants appréhendaient le traitement qu'avait subi le village de Kuru-Orman l'année dernière au mois de Juin. Ferhat Nebi, dix jours auparavant, au moment où il ramassait du bois sec dans une forêt située sur le territoire Roumain, avait été attaqué par quatre Bulgares armés du village de Kranova et lié de cordes: Il allait être emmené quand un berger Bulgare, Gulitza Gospodin, de Gorlitza, village Bulgaro-Roumain, intervint et le sauva. Ferhat Nebi était accusé par les quatre Bulgares armés d'être membre d'un Comité Turc. Les habitants de Velikioui recevaient de fréquentes menaces d'au delà de la frontière.

Le Maire de la commune de Velikioui se nomme Rustem Pelivan. Nul ne lui a jamais rien reproché jusqu'à ce jour. Son caractère, la position marquante qu'il occupe dans son village ont inspiré au Gouvernement Princier assez de confiance pour l'appeler aux fonctions de Maire. Le 15 Mars, Rustem se rend à Silistrie afin de s'y procurer des objets nécessaires à sa maison. Il avait terminé ses achats, et se tenait prêt à quitter la ville, lorsqu'un gendarme Bulgare se présente, l'enlève de vive force et le conduit à la police. Là cet homme honorable est l'objet d'insultes et de menaces, et roué de coups. Il faut qu'il révèle les repaires des brigands qui sont envoyés en Bulgarie par les Roumains pour dévaster le pays. C'est en vain que Rustem Pelivan déclare qu'il est Maire de son village, que quelles que soient les tortures qu'on lui inflige, il ne peut dire que la vérité, à savoir, qu'il ignore absolument ce qu'on lui impute; on lui riposte par des injures et des mauvais traitements; on le traite de "brigand de Roumanie." Rustem Pacha reste deux jours emprisonné, et pendant ce temps il voit les détenus arrêtés par la police Bulgare subir les plus cruelles tortures. C'est à peine si sur l'intervention de M. l'Administrateur de l'arrondissement Roumain de Nouvelle-Silistrie il fut mis en liberté.

Après trois jours d'investigations scrupuleuses je suis enfin revenu à Ostrov, où j'ai porté à votre connaissance, par plusieurs télégrammes consécutifs, partie des faits ci-dessus exposés. D'Ostrov même, j'ai pris les mesures nécessaires pour que la frontière fût à l'avenir l'objet d'une surveillance exceptionnellement rigoureuse.

J'ai demandé à M. le Général Anghelesco, Commandant de la division, d'augmenter les troupes du cordon-frontière: ce qui fut effectué. Je pris des dispositions en accord avec M. le Colonel Gorjan, Commandant du 4e Régiment de ligne, qui est chargé de la garde de la frontière sur une étendue de 112 kilom., et dispose d'un escadron de calaraschi et de l'escadron de roschiori de Debromir.

De mes recherches il résulte avec évidence, M. le Ministre, qu'aucune bande armée ne s'est formée sur le territoire Roumain, et n'a, par conséquent, ni passé la frontière, ni fait d'incursion en Bulgarie. Les dénonciations adressées au Gouvernement Princier, les accusations portées contre son administration, sont absolument inexactes.

J'ignore le nombre et la force des bandes armées qui infestent certaines régions de la Bulgarie, vers Schoumla, Bazardjik, et notre frontière. Mais ces bandes, si elles existent dans les conditions indiquées, s'organisent sur le territoire Bulgare. Les hommes qui les composent,—personne dans le district n'a de doute à cet égard,—sont des Turcs de Bul-

garie ou de Roumélie. La nature du terrain, coupé de forêts, de vallées, et de ravins rend leur existence plus facile dans ces parages que du côté Roumain, où la zone des forêts est moins étendue, où les villages sont plus rapprochés, où aucune localité n'est dépourvue d'administration et de force armée. Je suis autorisé à penser qu'il n'existe pas en Roumanie de cause, du moins apparente, de nature à pousser une partie de la population à des actes de rébellion ou de brigandage. S'il y a des mécontents dans cette nouvelle province de la Roumanie, quelle idée, quel mobile aurait l'énergie de les pousser au delà de la frontière, au risque de sacrifier leur vie sans but et sans profit?

La question de la formation d'une bande quelconque sur le territoire Roumain se trouve ainsi écartée.

Restait la question des bandits fugitifs qui auraient été poursuivis par les autorités Bulgares et se seraient réfugiés sur le territoire Roumain. J'ai cherché à éclairer ce point au fur et à mesure de mon voyage et de mes recherches. J'ai voulu également connaître toute la vérité à cet égard.

Voici les faits que j'ai pu recueillir.

Au commencement de cette année, un acte de vol à main armée a été perpétré dans le village de Aptaula, en Bulgarie. Tacor Acic, propriétaire d'un petit magasin de mercerie, est mis à la torture ainsi qu'un nommé Stefan Zaharia, et victime d'un vol d'argent et d'objets, pour une valeur de 186 louis d'or. L'autorité Roumaine, informée du fait, procède à de minutieuses investigations dans la commune Teke-Deresi qu'on soupçonnait abriter quelques-uns des voleurs. Onze Turcs du village sont arrêtés, des perquisitions multipliées amènent à la découverte, dans la maison d'un certain Chaban Miermis, de trois fusils militaires et de plusieurs objets de mercerie. Des objets analogues sont trouvés chez un certain Suleiman Ali. Le Tribunal ne relève aucune preuve de leur participation directe au crime, mais il se forme la conviction qu'ils sont receleurs d'une partie des objets volés. Il les condamne chacun, du chef de récel, à cinq mois de prison, et à des dommages-intérêts envers la partie civile.

Ils sont actuellement détenus à Ostrov et purgent leur peine. Les autres individus soupçonnés ont été acquittés, faute de preuves et d'indices. Chaban Miermis est un Musulman de Bulgarie. Il s'était depuis peu caché dans une maison abandonnée de la commune de Teke-Deresi.

Tel est, M. le Ministre, le seul fait d'où résulte qu'un Musulman de Bulgarie, découvert dans une commune Roumaine de la frontière, a participé à un crime commis en Bulgarie.

Je n'ai rien trouvé de plus, malgré toutes mes recherches.

D'ailleurs quelqu'autre malfaiteur se fût-il échappé de Bulgarie, et serait-il resté inconnu aux autorités Roumaines, serait-il légitime de conclure de là que les bandits de Bulgarie trouvent un refuge sur le territoire Roumain?

Il me paraît impossible de fermer complètement la frontière à tout Musulman qui viendrait paisiblement et sans armes de Bulgarie, par le seul motif qu'il aurait pu échapper aux poursuites des autorités Bulgares.

Dans tous les cas de dénonciation, même inexacte, l'autorité Roumaine n'a jamais négligé de prêter son concours le plus empressé aux autorités de la Principauté voisine. Mais ce concours ne pouvait excéder les limites posées par les lois du pays.

Mon enquête et mes constatations ont suffisamment répondu aux accusations portées contre l'administration de ce district.

Deux faits encore subsistent:

La découverte dans les forêts situées sur le territoire Roumain d'un Turc prétendu poursuivi par la force publique Bulgare, et l'incident des traces de trente-deux hommes sur la frontière.

Sur le premier point, je réponds: Musu Ali a été découvert par les sentinelles Roumaines dans un tronc d'arbre. Conduit au poste et examiné, il a été trouvé sans armes, les pieds nus et enflés.

Il cherchait des ruches dans la forêt. Surpris par la nuit et n'osant pas rentrer au milieu des ténèbres, il a cherché un abri, pour la nuit, dans un tronc d'arbre.

Quant aux traces auxquelles M. le Chef de la Police de Silistrie attribue une si haute éloquence, je n'ai rien pu constater, sinon qu'il y avait effectivement des traces. Mais rien ne trahissait que ce fût les traces de bandes Turques armées. La conviction de M. le Chef de la Police de Silistrie a été, sur ce point comme sur d'autres, quelque peu précipitée. N'est-il pas téméraire de déduire de quelques traces de pas sur la frontière la formation sur le territoire Roumain de bandes armées Turques, qui font des incursions en Bulgarie? J'objectai à mon tour que l'existence de ces traces imposait à l'Administration de sérieuses mesures pour la défense efficace de la frontière Roumaine, et la garantie, aux confins du pays, de l'ordre qui règne à l'intérieur.

J'ai eu l'honneur, M. le Ministre, de vous entretenir du grave incident de Kadikieui, du 21 Mars, quelques heures avant mon arrivée, des mauvais traitements subis par Ferhat Rebi, de Velikieui, des coups de feu tirés sur Mustafa Mehmet, de Kadikieui. Ces faits ne sont malheureusement pas isolés. Des groupes armés de soldats et de villageois Bulgares en armes, parfois seulement des villageois armés, sous le nom de milice, s'organisent sous le prétexte de surveiller la frontière de l'arrondissement Roumain de Nouvelle Silistrie, chassent devant eux les Musulmans qu'ils rencontrent, et violent la frontière entre les piquets, à toute occasion.

Presqu'en même temps que la démonstration opérée à Kadikieui, une troupe de Bulgares, forte de quarante hommes armés, composée de quelques soldats et de paysans, s'arrête vis-à-vis du piquet Roumain No. 11. Les sentinelles demandent aux Bulgares la raison de leur présence. Ceux-ci répondent qu'ils sont sur la frontière, et sur leur territoire, et qu'ils guettent, pour les tuer, les Turcs qui passeraient là.

Le 22 Mars, vers 5 heures et demie de l'après-midi, une troupe Bulgare composée de dix hommes à cheval et armés, du village de Kaïnardja (Bulgarie) se glisse entre les piquets Roumains Nos. 2 et 3 et tombe sur quelques Musulmans d'Essenkieui qui coupaient du bois dans une forêt de leur territoire communal. A l'approche de cette bande, la plupart des Musulmans prennent la fuite. Mais trois d'entre eux sont saisis, liés de cordes, et traînés jusqu'à Kaïnardja, où on les maltraite et les roue de coups, pour qu'ils révèlent quels sont les brigands qui se trouvent en Roumanie. Leur délivrance n'a été obtenue qu'à grand-peine. Si l'un d'entre eux avait préféré mentir pour échapper aux tortures qu'on leur infligeait, l'autorité Bulgare n'eût pas manqué d'en tirer un argument pour accuser l'Administration Roumaine de laisser des bandes s'organiser sous ses yeux.

Une bande semblable de villageois Bulgares envahit le territoire Roumain, et se met à traquer des Musulmans, habitants paisibles de ce territoire. Cette fois les Bulgares ont moins de succès. Trois d'entre eux sont arrêtés, dans la matinée du 27 Mars, par les soldats des piquets Roumains, et déférés à l'autorité administrative.

Toutes ces bandes qui violent la frontière et envahissent le territoire Roumain ne sont pas sans laisser des traces de pas. Dans la même mesure tout au moins que les autorités Bulgares, quand elles invoquent cet argument pour établir la formation de bandes Turques en Roumanie, l'Administration Roumaine serait autorisée à constater—et c'est là un fait notoire et avéré—que l'autorité Bulgare forme et arme des bandes de villageois qui menacent les villages Roumains de la frontière, et jettent la terreur parmi leurs habitants.

Du côté de la Bulgarie la frontière n'est pas régulièrement gardée par des piquets et des troupes d'infanterie régulière, comme du côté Roumain. Les quelques piquets établis vis-à-vis des villages Roumains d'Essenkieui et de Karvan ont été levés. Depuis quelques semaines, l'autorité voisine a pris pour système de défendre et de garantir la frontière par des milices, composées de villageois Bulgares, armés de pied en cap, mais indisciplinés et animés des plus violents sentiments de haine et de vengeance contre la population Mahométane. Il est difficile de s'expliquer leur utilité sur la frontière Roumaine car ils n'ont à combattre aucun péril venant de Roumanie.

Mais leur conduite, leurs menaces aux villages Musulmans du territoire Roumain, les mauvais traitements dont ils accablent les infortunés qu'ils rencontrent et qu'ils prennent, tous ces faits sont de nature à entretenir l'inquiétude et la terreur que j'ai effectivement constatées par moi-même.

Les mesures que j'ai combinées avec MM. les Commandants des troupes Roumaines ne paraissent provisoirement suffisantes. Mais il est indispensable que de son côté l'autorité Bulgare soit priée de changer son mode de garde de la frontière. Le maintien du régime actuel pourrait entraîner des malheurs, car il est à supposer qu'à l'avenir les troupes Roumaines agiront de manière à rendre impossible la violation, contre tout droit, du territoire Roumain par des hommes armés et animés d'intentions hostiles.

En tout cas, M. le Ministre, je considère comme un devoir de garantir la vie et les biens d'une population irréprochable, et entrée, en vertu de la nouvelle loi organique de la Dobrugia, dans la cité Roumaine.

Tel est, M. le Ministre, le résultat de mon enquête sur la ligne-frontière et dans les villages Musulmans de l'arrondissement de Nouvelle Silistrie. Sur la frontière de l'arrondissement de Mangalia règne une tranquillité parfaite. D'ailleurs, bien que la population de cet arrondissement soit presque exclusivement Musulmane, les autorités Bulgares n'ont encore formulé contre elle aucune plainte relative à de prétendues incursions.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Préfet,

(Signé) REMUS N. OPREAN.

No. 8.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 77.) *Bucharest, May 27, 1880.*

My Lord,

M. BOERESCO spoke to me the other day at some length on the subject of the coolness which had arisen between his country and the Government at Sophia.

He told me he had instructed the Roumanian Representatives in foreign countries, and likewise M. D. Bratiano, who is now in London, to speak of the nature of these differences of the two conterminous Principalities to the various foreign Ministers, and likewise to add the most recent cause of complaint to this list of grievances.

It consists in the presentation to the Bulgarian Assembly of a Government Bill on the subject of naturalization, by Article 3 of which, all Bulgars natives of districts formerly belonging to the Ottoman Empire, who within two years shall come into that Principality, shall at once and *ipso facto* acquire the rights of citizenship.

Such territories are further defined to consist of "Eastern Roumelia and the Bulgarian districts annexed by Roumania and Serbia."

This allusion to the Dobroudja as a Bulgarian land, ignoring the manner in which it has been unwillingly acquired by Roumania, has naturally given great offence here.

It has been observed that a difference of treatment is thus gratuitously established between persons of Bulgarian origin residing in Roumania proper, of whom there are a great many, and those who live in a district on the other side of the Danube, which both the Treaty of San Stefano and that of Berlin have destined to become a portion of Roumania, and where different creeds and races have hitherto lived in peace and harmony under a new rule.

It is very much to be regretted that so little sympathy and good feeling exists amongst these various States, as it is evident that Servia will resent this last Bulgarian proceeding quite as much as the Government of Prince Charles.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 9.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 37.) *Belgrade, May 26, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 12th instant, I have the honour of informing your Lordship that Auli Bey, the Turkish Commissioner in Religious Establishment and State Properties ("vakouf") question, has arrived at Nisch, where he was, on Sunday last, joined by his Servian colleague, M. Pavlovitch. The labours of the Commission are to begin as soon as a suitable building has been found for its deliberations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 10.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 38. Confidential.) *Belgrade, May 26, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch No. 18 of the 31st March, in which his Lordship instructed me to associate myself with the Austrian Representative in case he should be requested by his Government to make representations against the Agrarian Law passed in the last Session of the ordinary Skuptschina, this law having been thought at Vienna to violate the spirit of Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that the Austrian Minister has hitherto received no instruction on the subject, and that, on the contrary, he has confidentially informed me that during his late visit to Vienna he arrived at the conclusion that the Imperial Government had abandoned the idea of taking any steps in the matter, the despatch requesting him to protest against the Agrarian Law having been written and subsequently cancelled.

On the other hand, the Ottoman Envoy at Belgrade, acting under instructions from

the Porte, addressed a note last week to the Servian Government, proposing the appointment of a mixed Servian and Turkish Commission to inquire into the title-deeds of the Turkish proprietors. The reason of this proceeding is that, though the Agrarian Law professes, in obedience to the Treaty of Berlin, not to touch freehold property, but only to modernize feudal tenures, the Turkish contention is that many of the properties alleged to be feudal are in reality freehold.

What the answer of the Servian Government will be it is, of course, difficult, as yet, to say, but it is very possible that, in addition to questioning the reality of the complaint, they will urge that the Turkish Government have taken action somewhat late, seeing that the Porte have had the law under consideration over three months, and have only moved in the matter after the Judges appointed to carry the law into execution have already commenced their labours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 11.

Consul Moore to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 5. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Jerusalem, May 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that for the last year or so there have been rumours of projected French enterprises in Palestine on an extensive scale. Various movements and proceedings from time to time seemed to lend colour to reports which have now assumed a tangible shape. The Local Administrative Council has recently reported favourably to the Central Government on a French scheme for the navigation of the Dead Sea by means of steam-vessels, for the transport of the produce of the regions lying to eastward of it to this side, by direct transit from shore to shore, instead of the present circuitous and expensive carriage round it by beasts of burden.

The rumours above alluded to included in these projects the construction of a harbour at Jaffa, and a railway to Jerusalem and other parts of the country, and the concession now reported would seem to be a link, as it were, in the chain, for it cannot be supposed that the passage of the Dead Sea represents the whole or final extent of the enterprise, into which most probably enters the exploitation of the minerals—bitumen, sulphur, petroleum, &c.—to be found on the shores of the Dead Sea.

Yesterday Captain de Torcy, Military Attaché to the French Embassy at Constantinople, left Jerusalem, after a visit of about ten days, to resume his tour in Syria; he travels in his uniform, and is transported from place to place on the sea-board in a man-of-war. His visit is generally believed to be in the nature of a mission to Syria; that the projects above referred to engaged his attention during his stay here is highly probable. He obtained from Midhat Pasha a promise of an early expedition of troops to be stationed at Kerak, a considerable town on the east of the Dead Sea, now in a condition of lawlessness, and therefore a menace to the success of the scheme in question.

Raouf Pasha, the Governor of Jerusalem, is known for his French proclivities.

M. de Torcy is very unfavourably impressed by Midhat Pasha, whom he accuses of plotting to secure for himself eventual supreme and independent domination in Syria.

I am informed that a short while ago a remarkable article appeared in the "Globe" newspaper of Paris, advocating, from a political point of view, the founding by France of such enterprises and interests in Palestine, in view of increased British influence in these parts, arising from the preponderating interest of England in the Suez Canal, and the acquisition of Cyprus. In former despatches I have drawn attention to the recent marked extension of French establishments and institutions and influence here, and the high ground taken by French agents in their dealings with the local authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 12.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 427.) *Paris, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN your despatch to me No. 564 of the day before yesterday, your Lordship recited the terms of an instruction which you proposed to send to Mr. Goschen with regard to the passage respecting the Greek Frontier question to be comprised in the identic note which it is intended to address to the Porte.

Yesterday morning I put a copy of this proposed instruction into M. de Freycinet's hand, and asked him to let me know whether the French Government concurred in the terms of it.

Baron de Courcel, the Director of the Political Department of the French Foreign Office, came to me to-day with M. de Freycinet's answer.

He told me that, with one single exception, the French Government fully concurred in the proposed instruction.

The exception applied, he said, to the passage stating that the Governments of Turkey and Greece would be invited to send Delegates to lay their arguments before the Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin. M. de Freycinet had heard from Berlin that the German Government was of opinion that Turkey and Greece should not be invited to send Delegates to the Conference, but should simply be allowed to do so if they themselves requested it. This was also the opinion of the French Government, and M. de Freycinet desired to recommend it to your Lordship's consideration.

Baron de Courcel observed, in conclusion, that it appeared that this opinion of the German Government had been conveyed direct to your Lordship by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin.

I have already transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 267.) *Vienna, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Haymerle the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, containing the instruction proposed to be sent to Mr. Goschen in reference to the identic note to the Porte upon the question of the Greek frontier.

His Excellency has expressed his entire concurrence in it up to the passage in which it is stated that the Governments of Turkey and Greece would be invited to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments, but he would prefer the omission of that paragraph.

He observed that while the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin providing for the mediation makes no mention of the participation in it of either Turkey or Greece, it seems scarcely fair to the former Power to summons her, as it were, to the bar of a Conference deliberating upon the extent of territory she is to be called upon to surrender.

He thinks, therefore, that it would be better to omit the passage in question, and to leave it to the Porte to decide in what manner it preferred to bring its arguments under the consideration of the Powers.

It must, however, be understood, he says, that the proceedings of the Conference are not to be delayed by the course which the Porte may adopt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

Londres, le 31 Mai, 1880

M. le Comte,

ME référant à la conversation que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir aujourd'hui avec votre Excellence, je m'empresse de vous confirmer que, par un télégramme de son Excellence le

Chevalier Cairoli, en date du 29 courant, je suis autorisé à vous déclarer que le Gouvernement du Roi a accepté la proposition du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine relativement aux instructions à donner aux Représentants des Puissances intéressées à Constantinople pour formuler la partie de la note identique qui se réfère à la question de la rectification de la frontière Grecque.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. MENABREA.

No. 15.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 113, Russian Government will concur in the instruction for the identic note to be sent to Mr. Goschen, but it thinks it better to omit inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates. M. de Giers hinted at the possibility of your Lordship's being able to discover some other and less formal [way] of ascertaining what the Porte and Greece might have to say on the subject.

The official reply in reference to the proposed instruction will reach me to-morrow after M. de Giers has seen the Emperor, who is at Tsarskoe. In the meantime he has given me the above résumé of its probable character.

No. 16.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th, Prince informs me that he has received a report respecting destruction and pillage of villages between Varna and Bourgas. It appears that some Bulgarian troops were ordered to take possession of territory which has hitherto been governed by Eastern Roumelia. No notice having been given, the Turkish inhabitants, seeing troops arrive, became alarmed, and deserted their villages; but they assembled afterwards and attacked the Bulgarian troops, who, finding themselves surrounded, applied for assistance both to the Bulgarian and Eastern Roumelian authorities. The Prefect of Bourgas, having no force at his disposal, gave orders to call out Bulgarian peasantry. This was done. An attack was made on the Turks, several of whom were killed, and their villages were burnt.

Prince observes that Bulgarian authorities were to blame for not having given notice of arrival of the troops, but that the attack, in which several Bulgarian soldiers had been killed, had been made by the Turks.

No. 17.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 1, 1880, 9 A.M.*

ITALIAN Government have no objection to omit, in proposed identic note, sentence inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their Governments.

No. 18.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1, 4·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, June 1, 1880, 12·30 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 31st May received. I start for Janina per Corfu by next steamer on 7th instant.

Please inform me by telegraph addressed here if my visit is to be made officially and

with cognizance of the Porte or as a private person; in the former case, may the Governor-General of Janina be informed through the Porte?

Please address any instructions or letter per Consul at Corfu.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AS all the Powers have agreed to omit from identic note the invitation to Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to the Conference at Berlin, the instruction to Mr. Goschen will be altered accordingly.

(Repeated to Mr. Corbett.)

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 6·50 P.M.

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government concur with French Government as to answer to Russian suggestion for enlarging Conference reference, and they have already replied in the same sense as French Government, as will be seen by my telegram No. 105 to Lord Dufferin of 22nd ultimo.

We are also prepared to agree to omission of passage inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates, as all the other Powers concur in doing so.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WE shall be prepared for the Conference meeting at Berlin as soon after the 15th as may suit the convenience of the other Powers.

(Repeated to Constantinople and Athens.)

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.)

AS the Powers agree that the sentence should be omitted, cancel in my despatch No. 17 of the 27th May the paragraph, "and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments."

An amended despatch omitting these words will be sent to you by next messenger. You can act on the instructions for identic note as soon as you receive the despatch of the 27th ultimo.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 4, it is intended to include the intimation to the Porte as to Conference in identic note.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880, 7·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires communicated, yesterday, telegram from Musurus Pasha, reporting that the Sultan, after hearing his explanations, had desired him to express His Majesty's satisfaction at policy of Her Majesty's Government, and desire that Porte should co-operate in carrying out Treaty of Berlin, which he was sure the Powers would not allow to be interpreted in a manner prejudicial to any of the parties interested.

In reply, I asked Musurus Pasha to express to the Sultan the respectful thanks of Mr. Gladstone and myself for the gracious message which His Majesty had been good enough to send.

I repeated to him that it was the desire of Her Majesty's Government to see the supremacy of the Sultan maintained, and the territorial limits of that supremacy not contracted further than had been done by the Treaty of Berlin, if that supremacy were not dissociated from the security and prosperity of the populations under His Majesty's rule. I said that it was essential for the continuance of the Sultan's authority that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out in their spirit as well as in their letter.

With the enlightened co-operation of the Sultan in this matter, I could not doubt of the success which would attend the efforts of Europe to attain so desirable an end.

The Sultan is all-powerful. If our requests are complied with, it is to His Majesty that we shall feel indebted.

If, of which I trust there is no chance, they should be disregarded, it will be painful to us to think that it is His Majesty that has not been willing to agree to proposals which have been made in the most friendly spirit as regards the welfare of the Ottoman Empire.

You had better let Musurus Pasha know that you have got my answer.

No. 25.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1, 10·30 P.M.)

Cettinjé, June 1, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

(Télegraphic.)

PRINCE informed me this morning that he had summoned me to Montenegro in order that I might remain here during present state of affairs, to give your Lordship the Montenegrin view of what is passing in Albania. I have replied that as I believe Her Majesty's Government have full confidence in the engagement of His Highness to leave matters to the consideration of the Powers, and no fear, therefore, is felt of unforeseen occurrences from side of Montenegro, it appears to me more necessary that I should be at Scutari, where my influence is absolutely required to keep the wild mountaineers from committing acts of aggression.

I have further told His Highness that I believed Montenegro, as well as all rising States, may rely on the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government, and that I shall not fail to be back here at the proper time. I shall return to Scutari on Thursday, as it was only with the greatest difficulty that I prevented, just before leaving, the launching of a kind of formal declaration of war against Montenegro.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 26.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1, 11·30 P.M.)

Vienna, June 1, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent the following to Mr. Green:—

"Austrian Government have given the Prince of Montenegro no hint of the suggestions that are being discussed."

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

Vienna, June 1, 1880.

(No 66.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, Baron Haymerle is willing to join Her Majesty's Government in advocating the change of territory suggested by Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul, but prefers that the initiative should be taken by Her Majesty's Government, and says that the new sea-coast to be added to Montenegro must be subject to the same conditions as those attached by the Treaty of Berlin to the coast then given to the Principality. His Excellency is also ready to promise to use the influence of Austria in obtaining for the Vilayet of Scutari a certain amount of self-government; but he objects to the words "the Albanians," used in your Lordship's telegram, as being too vague and capable of too great an extension. He considers that great secrecy should be observed about the proposal at present, and that much should be trusted to the discretion of Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul in arranging its details.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

(No. 20.)
Sir,

THE Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin have signified their concurrence in the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, that an identic and simultaneous note should be addressed by the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople to the Porte, requiring the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and the provinces inhabited by the Armenians.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will concert with your colleagues for the preparation and presentation to the Porte of a note following as far as possible the terms of my Circular despatch of the 4th May last, of which a copy is inclosed, respecting the Montenegrin frontier and the LXIst Article of the Treaty.

With regard to the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier, Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the other Powers that the delay of the Porte in replying to the proposal of the Marquis of Salisbury must be considered as a refusal, and that, therefore, as it is desirable, in the interests of both Turkey and Greece, to bring the matter speedily to an issue, the Ambassadors should announce to the Porte that the Powers propose that a Conference of the Representatives of the mediating Powers, assisted by officers possessing technical knowledge, should be held at Berlin, to be assembled for actual business before the end of June, to consider and determine by a majority on the proper line of frontier to be adopted.

When a determination has been arrived at by the Conference, a Commission might proceed to the locality to settle the details.

The substance of this despatch has been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

(No. 21.)
Sir,

THE Powers having agreed that Turkey and Greece should not be invited to send Delegates to attend the Conference on the Turco-Greek frontier question, you should cancel that portion of my despatch No. 17 of the 27th May, which intimates that such an invitation would be made to those Powers, viz., "and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments."

A despatch thus amended will be sent to you by the messenger who leaves this on the 3rd instant, but your Excellency should carry out your instructions for the identic note to be addressed to the Porte as soon as you receive my despatch of the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

(No. 22.)
Sir,

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me yesterday a telegram from Musurus Pasha stating that he had an audience with the Sultan, and had entered into explanations respecting the policy of Her Majesty's Government which had quite satisfied His Majesty of their sincerely friendly feelings towards the Ottoman Empire. His Majesty desired him to convey to Mr. Gladstone and myself the assurance of his great satisfaction at the policy which Her Majesty's Government are resolved to pursue in the East in the interests of peace and the regeneration of the Ottoman Empire. No one could be more anxious than was His Majesty for the fulfilment of those of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin which still remained unexecuted. He desired that the Porte should heartily co-operate in carrying out those stipulations, as he was convinced that with the sense of justice entertained by the Powers they would not allow the meaning of the Articles which referred to still pending questions to be interpreted to the prejudice of any of the parties concerned.

In reply to this communication I first begged Musurus Bey to convey to the Sultan the respectful thanks of Mr. Gladstone and myself for the gracious message His Majesty had been good enough to send.

I repeated to him that it was the wish of Her Majesty's Government to see the supremacy of His Majesty the Sultan maintained, and the territorial limits of that supremacy not contracted further than had been done by the Treaty of Berlin, provided that supremacy were not dissociated from the security and prosperity of the populations under His Majesty's rule. I said that for the continuance of the Sultan's authority it was essential that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out not only in their letter but in their spirit. With the enlightened co-operation of the Sultan I could not doubt that success would attend the efforts of Europe to attain so desirable an end.

The Sultan being all-powerful, it would, I said, be to His Majesty that we should feel indebted if our requests were complied with. If, on the contrary, they should be disregarded, a contingency which I could not regard as possible, it would be painful to us to think that proposals which had been made in the most friendly spirit as regards the welfare of the Ottoman Empire, should meet with objection at the hands of His Majesty the Sultan.

Your Excellency should take means to let Musurus Pasha know that you have received my reply to his communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No 31.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

(No. 23.)
Sir,

IN reply to your inquiry as to the form in which the Porte should be informed that a Conference will be held on the question of the Greek frontier, I have this day acquainted you, by telegraph, that it is intended that the intimation to the Porte respecting the Conference should be included in the identic note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin, Paris, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Vienna.

My Lord,
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of the instruction for the identic note which Her Majesty's Government have this day addressed to Mr. Goschen with regard to the question of the Greek frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 271.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

THE Austrian Ambassador inquired of me on the 30th ultimo, in the course of conversation, whether it was intended that the Conference to meet at Berlin to discuss the rectification of the Greek frontier was to be a Conference *ad hoc*, and limited to that subject only.

I said that that was undoubtedly our intention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 591.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday's date, communicating to me M. de Freycinet's views respecting a suggestion made by the Russian Government that the Conference at Berlin should not confine itself to the consideration of the Greek question, but should also deal with the Montenegrin and other questions connected with the Treaty of Berlin, and I have to request that, in answer to M. de Freycinet's application to be informed of the views held by Her Majesty's Government on this subject, you will state to him that Her Majesty's Government concur with him in thinking that the Greek question should first of all be disposed of, and that the proposal to submit further questions for the decision of the Conference should be reserved for subsequent consideration.

Her Majesty's Government have already replied in this sense, as your Excellency will perceive on referring to my telegram to Lord Dufferin of the 22nd ultimo, copy of which is in your Lordship's possession.

With regard to M. de Freycinet's further inquiry, your Excellency is authorized to inform him that, as all the other Powers are agreed on the point, Her Majesty's Government are also prepared to acquiesce in the omission from the identic note of the passage inviting the Turkish and Greek Governments to send Delegates to the Conference to represent their views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[*]

(No 593.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

IN view of the understanding arrived at between the Powers not to invite the Governments of Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to the Conference at Berlin, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I will instruct Mr. Goschen to omit from the identic note the passage having reference to the invitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

[*] Identic despatches were addressed to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 36.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[*]

(No. 595.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1880.

ALL the Great Powers having adhered to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should be held at Berlin to consider the question of the Turco-Greek frontier, I have to request you to ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited on what date it would be convenient to them that the Conference should commence its sittings.

Her Majesty's Government would, so far as they are concerned, be quite ready for the commencement of the Conference on any day after the 15th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 37.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 62, Political.)
My Lord,

Prisrend, May 18, 1880.

THE Government at Constantinople will probably announce to Her Majesty's Ambassador that energetic steps have been taken at Jakova to remove from that locality the family of Kursan, to whose animosity towards the Christians are attributed the disorders that have taken place in that district.

Though their expulsion, due to the action taken in the matter by the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants combined, took place a fortnight since, the danger to the Christians is only temporarily averted, as the Kursan family continue to enjoy the protection of the authorities, who persistently employ as an officer of gendarmerie a Kursan named Murtes Aga, a ruffian who, before his appointment by Moukhtar Pasha, had been imprisoned for robbery and let off by bribery.

The Chiefs of other tribes and the Catholics have repeatedly informed me that, so long as this man was allowed to exercise authority, there would be no security either for the Christian or the Mussulman inhabitants of the district of Jakova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 60. Political.)
My Lord,

Salonica, May 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its three inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the state of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, May 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a translated extract from the "Hermes," the Greek organ here, relative to the enrolment of Christians of the province in the permanent gendarmerie and police, organized by Abeddin Pasha for the protection of the Vilayet and city of Salonica. These corps are quite distinct from the "Muvacat," or special provisory gendarmerie, which has been instituted solely with a view to the suppression of brigandage, after the accomplishment of which it will be disbanded. With regard to this body, people here express fears lest it should

cease to be amenable to discipline in the event of Abeddin Pasha's removal; the men who look up to him with the pride and respect clansmen have for their Chief may then ravage the country they came to protect, and thus more than double the brigandage under which the province groans.

This provisory force at present amounts to 1,260 officers and men, all of them Tosca-Albanians from Epirus, with the exception of 30 or 40 Christians recruited and employed in the immediate vicinity of this town. Their organization, destination, and rates of pay are given in the inclosed Table. They have been recruited by and are under the immediate orders of Osman Bey, an Albanian Chief, who holds the rank of Binbashi or Major in the Turkish army, and the appointment of Aide-de-camp of His Majesty the Sultan.

The corps of police, which will amount to 120 men, and the permanent provincial gendarmerie, numbering 1,780, are being formed of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans indiscriminately.

I am glad to say that several Christians and Jews have already been accepted by the Special Commission which the Governor-General has instituted for the purpose of inquiring into the character and antecedents of candidates for service in these corps. The pay of the police, as mentioned in the Archbishop's Circular letter, is fixed at the rate of 300 piastres, or about 2*l.* 15*s.* a-month, and that of the gendarmerie at 120 piastres, besides rations of 1 oke of bread per day; the uniforms and arms to be furnished by Government, and the officers of both corps to be chiefly selected from the army.

Irrespective of these corps of permanent police and gendarmerie, Abeddin Pasha has obtained the approval of the Porte for the organization of a local militia, which will be composed of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans alike, and of men from each district of the province. Every village of fifty houses will be bound to furnish one man at least. These militiamen will be solely employed in assisting the police and gendarmerie, when requisitioned, in their own districts. They are to be furnished with arms by the Government, and, when called out, will receive rations and will be under the immediate orders of the civil authorities. According to present estimates, this militia will number 1,700 men, fully one-half of whom will be Christians. Abeddin Pasha, like Réouf Pasha of Adrianople, is taking pains to manifest confidence in all classes of the population, and this most recent measure of his, which, I believe, he had no little difficulty in getting sanctioned by the Porte, has given real satisfaction to the Christian community, and has been readily complied with by some of the districts. For instance, the district of Cassandra, which is almost entirely inhabited by Christians, has offered to enrol in the militia one man for every thirty houses instead of fifty. Thus far Abeddin Pasha's administrative measures are confirmed by local public opinion, but I apprehend that their immediate execution will be inefficiently applied, owing to the almost total penury of the Provincial Treasury, caused by the heavy requisitions levied on it by the Porte.

With reference to the state of brigandage in Macedonia, while it appears from Mr. Vice-Consul Pecchioli's Report of the 18th instant, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Excellency of the 21st idem, and from the inclosed copy of a letter from my correspondent at Serres, that the military in those districts continue to successfully pursue the brigands, I very much regret having to state that the cessation of the evil in the districts of Caraferia and Caterina, to which I referred in a previous Report, was but temporary, for, within the last fortnight, Nico and other brigand Chiefs with their men have again renewed their operations by requisitioning food and money from the villagers in those districts, and carrying off hostages to the mountains. I may give the following instances:—

Nico, with fifteen companions and the Chiefs Thanasi Spanos, Lucas, and Daveli, with their men, in all about forty persons, ordered the inhabitants of the village of Catafeghe to send them lambs and bread. This order not being complied with, they entered the village, ate and drank, and after torturing the Mukhtar, or Headman, and several peasants, departed.

The brigand Chief Teham, with his band of twelve individuals, carried off a sheep-farmer, Christo Vasili—a Vlach—and claimed a ransom of 500*l.* for him. With considerable difficulty the man was liberated the day before yesterday on his relations paying 300*l.* for his ransom. This Christo Vasili is a tenant of Kétros, a large farm owned by Mr. Bizzo, the First Dragoman of this Consulate-General; and I regret to say that, about the same time he was kidnapped, another of Mr. Bizzo's tenants was discovered murdered in a field a short distance from the farm.

On the 14th instant the brigands addressed no less than five threatening letters to proprietors of farms in the district of Caraferia, demanding large sums of money, and threatening to burn their properties in case of refusal. One of these letters was addressed to Mr. Rogotti, a British subject, the same who had previously received a similar demand,

as I reported to your Excellency at the time. The threat, in his case, has not been carried out, the authorities having, at my request, posted a military guard on his property, as well as on the neighbouring ones belonging to Colonel Synge and Messrs. Abbotts. In the case of the farm of Gherjal, a short hour's distance from Colonel Synge's property, the brigands, receiving no satisfactory answer from its proprietor, attacked his "bonac," or residence, and after killing two Mahommedan guards who made some resistance, burnt it. But the brigands not only occupy themselves with plundering and murdering Christians and Turks indiscriminately, they also set themselves up as judges of public morals. I may mention a significant and very extravagant instance of this.

After burning the bonac of Gherjal, the brigands proceeded to the Greek monastery of Vulchista, also in the district of Caraferia, seized the Abbot, who was accused of improper relations with a woman of the village, and after shaving off his beard, placed him on a donkey, with his face towards its tail. They at the same time seized the woman, and placed her naked on another donkey, and in this plight paraded them both through the village.

Yesterday morning telegraphic intelligence was received by the Governor-General that M. Manthos Economo, an Hellenic subject, and farm steward of Coluro, also in the district of Caraferia, and but a short distance from Colonel Synge's farm, was carried off by brigands while he was going his rounds in the fields, accompanied by two Turkish soldiers, who, in endeavouring to defend the Christian, were killed.

M. Economo is a poor man, but nephew of Sawas Pasha, the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Abeddin Pasha proceeded yesterday evening to Caraferia to superintend personally the adoption of measures to meet the emergency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Hermes" of May $\frac{6}{18}$, 1880.

(Translation.)

IN consequence of the note communicated by our Vali to the Archbishopric relative to the organized permanent gendarmerie and police, our Metropolitan has dispatched to the Bishops under him the following Circular:—

"Most Holy Bishop, &c.

"On the recent organization of the permanent gendarmerie and police by the forethought of our Vali his Excellency Abeddin Pasha, who considers the public safety one of his principal cares, we were invited by sublime teskere to inform the Christian inhabitants of the city and villages of our Metropolitan See that two Commissions have been formed, one under the presidency of his Excellency the Vali, and the other under the presidency of Alay Bey (Superintendent of Police), for the inscription of those who desire to be enrolled, either in the corps of gendarmerie or in that of police, which will be composed of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans. It is required that those who are enrolled be not only of irreproachable conduct, but also know how to read and write. The pay of the policemen is fixed at 300 piastres a-month, and that of the gendarmes at 120 piastres.

"In communicating this to you, Right Reverend brother, we think you should fittingly inform the Christians of your Diocese preserved by God of this, exhorting those who wish to be enrolled to come in time to the Government Palace here and declare their wish in a memorial.

"May the grace and infinite mercy of God be upon you."

"Your loving brother in Christ,
(Signed) "CALLINICUS, *Archbishop of Salonica.*

"*Salonica, May* $\frac{7}{19}$, 1880."

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

SPECIAL Temporary Gendarmerie.

(Translation.)

Amounts of Pay per Month, the Lira at 100 Piastres.

	Piastres.
Major	4,000
1st Adjutant	2,000
2nd "	1,500
Secretary of the battalion	1,200
Standard Bearer	1,000
Chaplain of the battalion	800
Surgeon	800
Captain	750
Assistant Secretary	600
1st Lieutenant	500
2nd "	400
Sergeant-Major	350
Sergeant	300
Cavalry	300
Corporal	200
Infantry	150

Strength of Divisions, Officers and Men.

Destinations—	
Sandjak of Serres	400
Caza of Carnferia and Caterina	300
" Stromniza	50
" Kuprili	40
" Vodena	30
" Doiran	30
" Avret Hessar	30
" Yenije	30
Nahié of Vardar	30
Cassandra, Kalamaria, and Langhaza	100
Neighbourhood of Salonica	130
Under the direct orders of the Major	90
Total number of officers and men	1,260

Inclosure 4 in No. 38.

Extract of a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres, dated May 14, 1880.

AT present Serres and the surrounding country are under martial law.

Active measures have been adopted by the Ottoman authorities to put brigandage down.

The "Comitas," *alias* Bulgarian robbers, have of late comparatively been little heard of. They have been forced to remain quiet, and the country is beginning to feel reassured.

About three weeks ago a skirmish took place near Demirhissar between the military and brigands; the latter were worsted, and about a dozen of them fell.

At Vrondo, a short time ago, a party of "Comitas" entered a Greek church and burned the ecclesiastical books. It is difficult to understand what could induce these Bulgarian outlaws to commit such a sacrilegeous and, to them, useless outrage, unless it be their hatred of the Greeks.

Yesterday a party of regulars, accompanied by Circassian irregulars, entrapped a party of "Comitas" at Suriyor, a few hours to the north of Serres. After an engagement of four hours, fifteen "Comitas" were shot, two escaped, one was captured, who was brought here and paraded about the streets; he is a mere youth, from 17 to 18 years of age. It is said that 400 liras were found upon them. These brigands had two individuals kidnapped, a Turk and a Christian, who were liberated by the troops.

No doubt these severe measures against the brigands will have the effect of discouraging them and in time of dispersing them. The "Comitas" are pursued in the mountains. It is said, however, the Turkish Albanians infest the plains, and the roads are unsafe.

On Wednesday last three Albanians robbed three mules from a Handji or Sarmasakli. The military, on being informed, chased them as far as Kavakli to the east of Serres; they were ordered to deliver themselves up, but one of the Albanians fired a pistol. The military thereupon fired upon them, killing one, and captured the other two, who were brought to Serres.

From Christian sources it is pretended the martial law is carried out more severely against the Christians than the Turks. The latter come to and depart from Serres with "teskerehs" (travelling permits), and the Albanians and Turks carry arms with impunity, at which infringements of the military law the authorities wink, whereas Christians, under similar circumstances, are severely brought to account.

No. 39.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 437.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 31, 1880.

M. DE FREYCINET said to me this evening that he was anxious to ascertain as soon as possible the definitive opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to two matters connected with the Conference of Ambassadors on the Greek question which it is intended to hold at Berlin.

The first of these matters related to the passage in the proposed instruction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople which stated that Turkey and Greece were to be invited to send Delegates to lay their arguments before the Conference. It had, M. de Freycinet said, been suggested by the Government of France, and by that of Germany, that Turkey and Greece should not be invited to send Delegates to the Conference, but should simply be allowed to do so if they themselves requested it. Did Her Majesty's Government adopt this suggestion?

The second matter respecting which M. de Freycinet desired to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government was a proposal which had, he understood, been made by Russia, that the Conference at Berlin should deal not only with the Greek question, but with other matters relative to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and in particular with the question of Montenegro.

M. de Freycinet said that this proposal had not been made to him by the Russian Government directly, but that his opinion upon it had been asked from Berlin. His own view was, he told me, that the Conference should be in the first instance empowered only to settle the Greek question, and that it was not until this question had been settled by it that the Powers should consider whether it would be advisable to authorize it to take up other matters. If only for the sake of guarding against delay, he should object to extending the powers of the Conference to any other subjects until it had completely disposed of the Greek Frontier question.

I said that I conceived the opinion of Her Majesty's Government to be that the Conference should deal first with the Greek Frontier question; and that if this should be successfully treated, then it might be a matter of consideration whether the terms of the reference to the Conference might be enlarged.

M. de Freycinet answered that he was particularly anxious to act in full concert with England on both the points he had mentioned, and that therefore he should be particularly obliged to me if I would obtain for him, as speedily as possible, distinct and positive information as to the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to them.

I have already had the honour to transmit the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 40.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 438.)

My Lord, *Paris, June* 1, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 416 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Freycinet said to me this afternoon that he understood that the Bulgarian Naturalization Bill which had been objected to by Roumania and Servia had now been withdrawn. This being the case, M. de Freycinet thought that it was unnecessary to take any steps in the matter.

I have since learned from a telegram from Mr. Lascelles, dated the 29th ultimo, which your Lordship has been so good as to repeat to me, that, in fact, measures have been taken to prevent the Bills being proceeded with in Bulgaria this Session, and that in the meantime endeavours will be made by the Bulgarian Government to come to a friendly understanding with Roumania on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 41.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, June 2.*)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{20 \text{ Mai}}{1 \text{ Juin}}$, 1880.

LE Cabinet Impérial a adhéré au projet de rédaction Anglais pour la Conférence Grecque, en ajoutant toutefois qu'il partage l'avis de ceux des Cabinets qui voudraient en exclure la mention des Délégués Turcs et Grecs.

No. 42.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 1, 1880.*

MY telegram of the 29th May repeated:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, Austrian Consul having communicated to me the substance of the telegram he is sending to his Government, and finding he has entered into great details, I beg to supplement mine as follows:—

"All the fortifications and military roads now in the hands of Albanian volunteers to be destroyed and abandoned.

"The autonomous Government of the Province of Scutari to consist of a Mussulman native Governor-General and a Roman Catholic native Lieutenant-Governor. A Roman Catholic native to reside at Tusi as Kaimakam of the great mountain tribe, and a similar functionary to be chosen by the Mirdites from their Chiefs—probably Bib-Doda. These arrangements to be discussed by Deputies of the North Albanians at Scutari, and necessarily to receive final sanction of the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

"The reinforcements to be sent to disembark at the mouth of the Boyana, and not to come first to Scutari. The advance of the Montenegrins to take place as soon as Turkish arrangements have been completed.

"(Not sent to Constantinople.)"

No. 43.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2, 2 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 2, 1880, 11 A.M.*

THE Prince, under the belief that the Powers are generally to address a note to the Porte on the settlement of the pending questions of the Treaty of Berlin, has desired me to beg your Lordship that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be instructed to give precedence to the Montenegrin question, as being the one presenting the most immediate danger from the menacing attitude of Albanian forces. His Highness is about to tender the same representation to all the Powers.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 44.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 2, 1880.*

FURTHER delay in my reception by the Sultan. French Minister also finds technicalities raised which prevent his immediate official action. He has not yet been received by the Foreign Minister. Under the circumstances Sir H. Layard has decided to leave to-day. I entirely concur in this course, as presence of two Ambassadors is very inconvenient and may encourage further delay.

No. 45.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 1 about Eastern Roumelian affairs, I find the most cordial desire to act with us on the part of my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues. They agree that the course proposed is not only required by justice, but highly expedient with reference to our action here, and will prevent Porte replying to our demands for execution of the Treaty of Berlin that Europe is indifferent to stipulations in favour of Mahommedans. Russian Ambassador, on the other hand, was much surprised at England broaching the subject, and strongly deprecates any step whatever, as likely to excite Bulgarian feeling. German Ambassador is with us generally, but fears that collective action will be rendered impossible by Russia. He thinks with me that Russian Ambassador is likely to resist strongly. Can you act in St. Petersburgh?

As to Stephen, I much wish him to proceed at once to Philippopoli to take charge.

I think it possible that the best plan will be to ask Colonel Wilson, now here, to conduct local investigation. His Report would carry great weight; but I would reserve final decision till I see what other Powers propose.

No. 46.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 2, 1880.*

FOLLOWING from Mr. Jago, dated the 31st May:—

"Midhat Pasha has sent his resignation to-day to the Sultan by telegraph."

No. 47.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 2, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 83.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that any date after the 15th instant will suit the German Government, but that they will not send out the invitations to the Conference at Berlin until formally and officially requested by the Mediating Powers to do so, in virtue of the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Will your Lordship send me a note to that effect?

No. 48.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 2, 1880.*

I HAVE informed M. Tricoupi that the Powers had agreed not to invite Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to Berlin. He told me that M. Brailas, who acted as one of the Greek Delegates at the late Conferences at Constantinople on the frontier question, would be ordered to proceed immediately to Berlin to advocate interests of Greece at the Conference about to meet there.

He will be accompanied by an officer of engineers.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880, 3·10 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of 1st instant.

You should go to neighbourhood of Greek frontier as a private person.

No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 2, 1880.*

THE Austrian Consul at Scutari states that, in order to carry out the proposed arrangement, it would be necessary for the Porte to order some battalions to occupy Dulcigno and the points of communication, or to guarantee their delivery to Montenegro.

He says that, to compensate the Albanians, and especially the Catholics, for the loss of Dinosi, and to render the compromise acceptable to them, it would be right to grant them a provincial ruler for the whole Vilayet of Scutari, with a Turkish Governor-General and a Catholic "Mouavin," as well as a special organization of the Catholic mountaineers with Sub-Governor of their own faith, and, finally, the convocation of a representative Assembly, the duty of which would be to make known the wishes of the country, and to consult upon the new institutions.

Baron Haymerle appears to regard this proposal with favour.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880, 5 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have desired Captain Sale to visit Janina and Mezzovo, with a view to furnishing a geographical and ethnological Report on Greek claim to rectification of frontier.

He will travel as a private person, and leaves Ragusa for Corfu by steamer on 7th instant.

No. 52.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 2, 1880, 1 P.M.*

PORTE has decided to say that Règlement has not been finally drawn up. This is because they are ashamed of their own work, and want to have time to alter it. I have this from a perfectly good source.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880, 6:35 P.M.*

HAVE received your telegram of the 1st June.

Entirely approve your language to Prince and your returning to Scutari.

I am communicating the proposal secretly to the Powers.

What is your opinion as to the next step to be taken in the matter?

No. 54.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to obtain geographical and ethnological information with regard to the Greek claim for a rectification of frontier in the direction of Janina and Mezzovo, and I have accordingly instructed Captain Sale to proceed to that district and to furnish me with a report thereon.

Captain Sale will leave Ragusa for Corfu by the steamer of the 7th instant, and he will travel as a private person.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

I HAVE received from Sir Henry Layard in his despatch No. 26, Consular, of the 2nd ultimo, a copy of the collective note which was addressed to the Porte on the 1st ultimo by the foreign Representatives, protesting against the reduction of the salaries of the President and Judges of the Mixed Tribunals.

The terms of that note have the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

THE Greek Consul at Larissa has reported to his Government the perpetration of an outrage by brigands on the 7th ultimo at Népal, a village in the immediate vicinity of Larissa.

I transmit herewith a copy of the Consul's Report, which has been communicated to me by M. Gennadius.

I have not received from Her Majesty's Consul at Larissa any intelligence of such an outrage having been perpetrated, and I beg that your Excellency will desire Mr. Longworth to send home at once a Report on the proceedings described by the Greek Consul.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

I THINK it desirable to call your special attention to several claims which still remain unsatisfied by the Porte, and I have to request that your Excellency will endeavour to obtain from the Sultan's Government a speedy settlement of them.

These claims are:—

That of the "Tigris and Euphrates Steam Navigation Company" to increase the number of steamers it possesses upon those rivers, which is limited by Firman to two, and the opening of the rivers of Mesopotamia to commerce.

For an arrangement by which Commanders of Her Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf should have authority to pursue and capture piratical vessels within the 3-mile limit on the Arabian mainland north of Odied.

For the appointment of an International Commission to examine into the question of the renewal of the Cullas Lighthouse Concession.

For an International Commission to examine the Concession about to be given to M. Michel for the construction of quays in the Golden Horn with a view of determining the dues to be paid by foreign shipping.

For an International Commission to inquire into the management of the safety-boat and floating-light services in the Black Sea.

And for the granting of a Constitution to the Protestants of Turkey.

In Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 496 of the 11th ultimo your Excellency will find an account of the steps he has taken with regard to these various claims, and the manner in which they have been met by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 58.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[*]

(No. 233.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a telegram which has been addressed by the Porte to Musurus Pasha in anticipation of the identic note which the Ottoman Government has learnt is about to be addressed to it by the Powers.

This telegram has been placed in my hands by the Turkish Ambassador, and I beg that you will communicate a copy of it to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 265.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.*

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will see from the report given by Lord E. Fitzmaurice in the inclosed despatch of his conversation with Baron Kallay, that he received the impression that it is the policy of the Austro-Hungarian Government to minimize the powers of the Commission of which his Lordship is a member, and generally to make few demands on the Porte in the hope that it might possibly carry out the little asked of it, and thereby stave off the crisis with which the Turkish Empire is threatened.

This policy may, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, have most dangerous results, as if the demands upon the Porte for reforms are minimized, it will meet them, as it has done before, by doing nothing; the Sultan will be encouraged to resistance; and thus the very catastrophe will be produced which the Austro-Hungarian Government desire to avoid.

I have to request your Excellency to bear this remark in mind in your conversations with the Austro-Hungarian Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 444.) *Paris, June 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

THIS afternoon, in pursuance of the instructions given me in telegrams which I received from your Lordship last evening, I gave M. de Freycinet the information for which he had asked with regard to the views of Her Majesty's Government as to certain matters concerning the Conference of Ambassadors on the Greek frontier to be held at Berlin.

I said that it appeared that all the Powers had agreed to omit from the identic note to be presented to the Porte by the Representatives at Constantinople the invitation to Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to the Conference, and that your Lordship's instructions to Mr. Goschen would be modified accordingly.

M. de Freycinet answered that he would at once send to the French Representative at Constantinople an instruction embodying the other parts of that to Mr. Goschen, of which I had put a draft into his hand on the 28th ultimo, but omitting the passage about inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates.

With regard to the Russian proposal, that the Berlin Conference should take into consideration other matters as well as the Greek frontier question, I said that the views of Her Majesty's Government entirely agreed with those which M. de Freycinet had expressed to me. I added that your Lordship had in fact stated to Russia, in answer to this proposal, that you conceived that the Conference should deal first with the Greek frontier, and that if this matter were successfully treated, the Powers might then consider the question whether the reference to the Conference might be enlarged, but your Lordship had, I said, reserved for the present the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

[*] Identic despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

Finally, I told M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared for the Conference meeting at Berlin as soon after the 15th instant as might suit the convenience of the other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 3·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 2nd instant, Mr. Goschen has already been instructed that Montenegrin question requires "pressing attention."

No. 62.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

REPORT to me your opinion on the proposals contained in the following telegram from Sir H. Elliot:—

[See No. 50.]

No. 63.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 7, is it known why Midhat Pasha has resigned?

No. 64.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 6, you may send Stephen to Philippopoli at once. Employment of Colonel Wilson for local investigation is left to your discretion.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[*]

(No. 128.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 5·20 P.M.*

MR. GOSCHEN was instructed, on the 25th May, to consult with his colleagues as to the best means of ascertaining the truth of the reports respecting the destruction of Turkish villages, and making representations at Philippopoli which may secure the punishment of the offenders and future adequate protection for the Mussulman inhabitants.

Following answer has been received from him, dated yesterday:—

[See No. 45.]

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[*] Also to Sir A. Paget, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

No. 66.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 6·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's No. 6, express hope of Her Majesty's Government will not oppose the concerted action of the other Powers in regard to destruction of Turkish villages. It is in the interest of the Bulgarian population themselves that the statements which have been made should be properly investigated, and the disorders in Eastern Roumelia repressed.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3, 6 P.M.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 3, 1880.*

IF your Lordship instructs Mr. Green to propose the new arrangement to the Prince of Montenegro, the Austrian Consul will be desired to state that his Government approve of it.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3, 6 P.M.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 3, 1880.*

THE Austrian Ambassador at Berlin will be quite ready to take part in the Conference at the time named by your Lordship.

No. 69.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3, 7 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 3, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

MY audience will take place this afternoon. Sir H. Layard left yesterday.

No. 70.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3, 6 P.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 3, 1880, 1·40 P.M.*

REFERRING to your telegram No. 2 of the 26th ultimo, representations have already been made by Sir H. Layard respecting the proceedings of the Kurds, as reported by Captain Clayton.

No. 71.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.*

(No. 117. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 8·15 P.M.*

REPORTS received by Her Majesty's Government show that the situation on the Montenegrin frontier is of the gravest character. The Prince is appealing to the Powers, and abstains from force.

Albanians threaten to attack as a means of bringing matters to an issue. It seems impossible that affairs can be left in their present state. The Powers are under an obligation, both by the Treaty of Berlin and by the Memorandum signed at Constantinople, to bring about an arrangement which will satisfy the claims of Montenegro. It will be very difficult to force the Porte to take active measures against the Albanians, and

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Sir A. Paget, and Lord Odo Russell.

even if the Turkish Government were willing to do so, it is doubtful whether they have the power effectually to coerce the Albanians. It would be manifestly far from desirable for any of the Powers to attempt military intervention.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the Austrian Government would agree to join in proposing cession of territory in another direction, if a favourable opinion of the arrangement was expressed by the other Powers. The terms of this compromise would afford a very satisfactory solution; it avoids recourse to force, the result of which would be hard to foresee. As the freedom of the Boyana is secured to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin, there would be no loss to Turkey in that respect. The Albanians would have less cause for objection than to cession in any other direction, and Montenegro could be secured in its peaceable possession by action taken from the sea and from Scutari.

It will be necessary to keep the proposal completely secret from the Porte until the Powers have agreed among themselves upon it.

Ascertain the views of the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 72.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 118. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 8·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to my other telegram of this day, following are the terms of the proposed compromise:—

The frontier would follow the line westward from Lake Scutari, voted by the Commission, as far as about the 11th point near Maligan; it would then join the Russian line, and continue to its extreme south-easterly point; from thence it would join the Boyana, at the confluence of the small river which issues from Lake Sas, and would follow the course of the main river to the sea. Eastward of Lake Scutari the frontier would follow the line voted by the Commission, then continue on the red line, on which votes were equally divided, as far as the 24th point, then follow the Russian line, and rejoin the Commission line at Sukdigruda.

The new sea-coast to be added to Montenegro to be subject to the same conditions as those attached by the Treaty of Berlin (Article XXIX) to the coast then ceded to the Principality.

The influence of the Powers to be used to obtain for the Province of Scutari a proportion of self-government, calculated to satisfy the legitimate wishes of the North Albanians, while maintaining their connection with the Porte.

No. 73.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880, 8·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to telegrams of to-day, copies of Captain Sale's maps of Montenegrin frontier are being sent to you to-night.

No. 74.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED to you Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 6 of yesterday stating that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople strongly deprecated taking any step whatever in regard to the destruction of Turkish villages in Eastern Roumelia as being likely to excite Bulgarian feeling.

Your Excellency should express to the Russian Government the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government that Russia will not oppose the concerted action of the other Powers in this matter.

It is in the interest of the Bulgarian portion of the population that the statements

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Sir A. Paget, and Sir H. Elliot.

which have been made with regard to the destruction of these villages should be properly investigated, and the disorders in the province repressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 75.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 6 of the 2nd instant, and in reply thereto I authorize your Excellency to send Mr. Stephen to Philippopoli at once to take charge of Her Majesty's Consulate-General at that place.

With regard to the employment of Colonel Wilson to conduct an investigation into the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans and the burning of Turkish villages in Eastern Roumelia, I leave that matter entirely to your Excellency's discretion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 76.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, reporting a conversation you had with Baron Haymerle as to the nature of the reforms which should be introduced into the Government of the provinces of the Turkish Empire, under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and the possibility of securing their application.

The language you held to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Goverment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 77.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7 of the 17th ultimo, setting forth the meaning which you attach to the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as regards the Cretan Organic Law, and the powers of the Eastern Roumelian Commission. Her Majesty's Government agree in your interpretation of that Article, viz., that it does not give the Commission the right to interfere in the provisions or application of the Organic Statute in the Island of Crete.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 78.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 66.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 78 of the 10th ultimo, in which you inclose copies of two notes you had addressed to the Bulgarian Government, one remonstrating against the ill-treatment of Mussulmans at Rustchuck, and the other calling M. Zancoff's attention to the difference in the sentences passed by a Court-martial at Varna, in the cases of Mussulmans and Bulgarians convicted of similar crimes.

Her Majesty's Government approve your notes to M. Zancoff. They are glad to learn that he has taken steps for the suppression of brigandage, and for the restoration of

order in the eastern portion of Bulgaria, and they trust that those measures will be effectual in checking the ill-treatment of the Mussulman population.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 80 of the 17th ultimo, inclosing copies of a letter you had received from Réouf Pasha and of your reply; and I have to convey to you my approval of your having informed his Excellency that you had reason to hope, from the assurances you had received from M. Zancoff, that no further difficulty would be placed in way of the return to Bulgaria of such of the refugees who may have means of subsistence, and that as far as you were concerned you would do your best to bring about a solution of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 84, Confidential, of the 18th instant, in which you report a conversation you had with the Prince of Bulgaria, on the state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia, and the attitude he would assume in the event of a Bulgarian rising in that province; and I have to state to you that the language you held to His Highness on the occasion of that conversation meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 81.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 8 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 3, 1880, 10·45 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's two telegrams of yesterday. I share Baron Haymerle's opinion that Albania has too wide a signification for the present proposal, and that "Province of Scutari" would momentarily suffice.

Until all the Powers approve of the suggested changes, I do not see that any further steps can be taken.

The necessity of secrecy must more than ever be enjoined, as the Porte has evidently already taken alarm, and commenced endeavouring to induce Albanians here to declare that they do not want autonomy, and the failure of the attempt will not discourage Porte, as I have reason to know that it intends to resist to the last all territorial concessions and every reform in Northern Albania.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 82.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 9 A.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1880, 11·45 P.M.*

I HAVE had my official audience, and a private audience of half-an-hour immediately afterwards. At the latter I repeated almost textually your language held to Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, as telegraphed to me in telegram No. 18, stating that you had given this

reply in answer to the Sultan's message to you, conveyed by Musurus Pasha. The latter had clearly not informed the Sultan [? till] this morning, for the Sultan was deeply impressed with passage beginning: "The Sultan is all-powerful, &c.," and had it translated to him twice over. He made no reply to it, and was very reserved throughout. He asked to have my remarks in writing. I have since learnt that he considers the passage in question holds him personally responsible, and he is very frightened. Foreign Minister begged the First Dragoman that in written Report which the Sultan has asked for passage should be toned down, but that I shall not do. I think it was of very great importance to bring home your Lordship's clearly expressed views to the Sultan, and I am glad that the private interview afforded the means to do so effectually.

No. 83.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, morning.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1880, night.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 23, no reason has been assigned publicly for Midhat Pasha's resignation, but he has been dissatisfied for some time with his position, stated he could do no good, and was always checked from Constantinople.

No. 84.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 6 P.M.)

(No. 13. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 4, 1880, 1 P.M.*

WITH reference to public audience of yesterday, members of Embassy present on previous similar occasions tell me that Sultan's manner yesterday was quite different, being much less cordial and more constrained. At the private audience Sultan remained almost absolutely silent, in fact, he used no single conciliatory phrase; he said little more during the whole half-hour than that all Europe knew the difficulties Turkey had had in executing Treaty of Berlin, that he believed that three questions were still open under that Treaty, and that he would make a communication to his Ministers on that subject. He simply let me speak. I observed that he made no reply to my repeated assurances as to the disinterested and friendly intentions of Her Majesty's Government in offering him counsels intended to promote welfare of his subjects and consequently maintain his rule. General impression seems to be that the Sultan and the Porte will meet us with practical resistance even if they use fair language.

No. 85.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 4, 1880, 6·40 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 6 of the 31st ultimo, Michell states that Kirdjali Commission is still sitting at Haskeui, and has not yet presented its Report.

No. 86.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 5 P.M.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 4, 1880, 2·45 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 88.

Italian Government will be ready for Conference at Berlin on the 15th instant.

No. 87.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 53. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 4, 1880, 5 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Count Maffei, in a secret memorandum, substance of your telegrams Nos. 89 and 90, respecting proposed compromise for settlement of Montenegrin Frontier question, and am promised, as soon as possible, the answer of Italian Government, which Count Maffei believes will be favourable.

No. 88.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

GENERAL Sir Lintorn Simmons will be the officer appointed to assist your Excellency at the Greek Frontier Conference.

No. 89.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 12·15 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, June 4, 1880, 10 A.M.*

SEVERAL copies of the official French translation of the "Loi de la Roumélie" have got out; one is in my possession. I am having it printed, and shall distribute copies to my colleagues. This makes us independent of the Porte. For the present there is an informal meeting of the Commissioners on Monday here.

No. 90.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1880, 7·15 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Sir H. Elliot, dated yesterday:—

"If your Lordship instructs Mr. Green to propose the new arrangement to the Prince of Montenegro, the Austrian Consul will desire to state that his Government approve of it."

You may sound the Prince, but you had better not formally propose the arrangement until the Powers have agreed to it.

No. 91.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4, 10 P.M.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 4, 1880, 6·40 P.M.*

FRENCH Government have this day made a request for Conference on Greek Frontier question under Article XXIV of Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Bismarck will send out invitations when all the other Powers have done so likewise.

Prince Hohenlohe asks whether the 16th instant would suit your Lordship for the first meeting.

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 4, 1880.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday No. 2.

Austrian Consul's details do not alter materially proposals communicated in my telegrams of the 28th and 29th ultimo, but I am not of opinion that the Porte should be called upon to send any more troops to Albania before it accepts the suggested changes; meanwhile it might gladly avail itself of the excuse to lead the Albanians to believe that it has been pressed by the Powers to coerce them. In my despatch No. 128 of the 29th ultimo, which ought to reach your Lordship about six days hence, I have detailed proposals on which Austrian Consul and I are in perfect accord.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 93.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 5, 1880, 2·15 P.M.*

ITALIAN Government accept proposed compromise for the settlement of the Montenegrin Frontier question, as recorded in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 89 and 90.

No. 94.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 47.

The 16th will suit Her Majesty's Government as date of first meeting.

No. 95.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 46.

Note has been sent to Count Münster asking him to suggest to German Government that they should invite Mediating Powers to Conference at Berlin on Greek question.

No. 96.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5, 6 P.M.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 5, 1880, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 126 and 127, Russian Government will concur in any arrangement of the kind mentioned provided that it proves acceptable to the Prince of Montenegro.

No. 97.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 5, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 128 and 129, the Emperor is adverse to so formal a measure as the dispatch of an International Commission of Inquiry into Eastern Roumelia, on the ground that it would subvert the authority and the prestige of newly-

constituted Government of Aleko Pasha, especially if a Turk was a member of the Delegation. But His Imperial Majesty would not object to concerted action on the part of the resident Consuls in the direction specified, or to any other method of procedure of less ostentatious kind than that now proposed.

No. 98.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

IF you find that there is difficulty in obtaining agreement of all the Representatives of the Powers to pursuing inquiries in Eastern Roumelia, but only in that case, it would be better not to press for joint action, but for each Power to take such steps separately as it may consider best, and for the Representatives to communicate to each other the steps they take and the result.

No. 99.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1880, 10·15 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government consider that the Porte should be held to the execution of the April Memorandum until the new arrangement proposed for settlement of the Montenegrin frontier has been agreed upon.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government are of opinion that should there be a difficulty in obtaining the agreement of all the Representatives of the Powers to instituting an inquiry in Eastern Roumelia into the burning of Turkish villages and the ill-treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants, then, but only in the event of such difficulty arising, it would be better that your Excellency should not press for joint action, but that each Power should take such steps as it may consider best, and that the Representatives of the Powers should communicate to each other the result of the inquiries which they may make on their own account.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 101.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 447.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 4, 1880.*

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 606 of the day before yesterday, I have to-day transmitted to M. de Freycinet a copy of the telegram addressed on the 18th ultimo by Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha in anticipation of the identic note which is about to be presented by the Powers to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 102.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 261.)
Foreign Office, June 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE informed your Excellency to-day by telegraph, in reply to your telegram of yesterday No. 47, that Her Majesty's Government accept the date of the 16th instant for the first meeting of the Conference on the Greek Frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 264.)
Foreign Office, June 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE copy of a note which I have addressed to-day to Count Münster, inviting his Excellency to suggest to the German Government that they should issue invitations to the Mediating Powers to meet in Conference at Berlin on the question of the Greek frontier.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Count Münster.

Foreign Office, June 5, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

HER Majesty's Government have proposed to the Powers that a Conference should be held in order to carry out the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which provided that in the event of the Sublime Porte and Greece being unable to agree upon the rectification of frontier suggested in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia reserve to themselves to offer their mediation to the two parties to facilitate negotiations.

The Governments of the several countries mentioned in the Article have signified their assent to a Conference being assembled of their respective Representatives, who should be assisted by technical advisers, and who should decide by majority on the line of frontier to be adopted; and it has further been agreed that Berlin would be the most appropriate capital in which to hold the Conference.

Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request that your Excellency will be good enough to suggest to your Government to issue the usual form of invitation to the mediating Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, June 5, 1880.

IN reply to telegram No. 3, I believe that it would be of no advantage for me to return to Montenegro until I could place the whole arrangement before the Prince, and which I consider so advantageous for the Principality that I think it would be better for [group wrong; ? Montenegro] to learn of it only after all the Powers had consented to support it.

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* No. 104.

No. 106.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, June 5, 1880.

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires, by order of his Government, has communicated to Greek Government "officieusement" that an Agreement has been come to between England and France for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question; that the Mediating Powers have been invited to adhere to it, and that they will no doubt do so.

The Agreement is résumé in the following words:—

"Le retard qu'a mis la Porte Ottomane à répondre à la proposition de Lord Salisbury devant être considéré comme une fin de non recevoir, les Puissances Médiatrices se sont entendues pour réunir en Conférence avant la fin du présent mois leurs Représentants à Berlin, assistés de Délégués techniques, et pour les charger de déterminer à la majorité des voix le tracé le plus convenable pour la frontière entre la Turquie et la Grèce; après qu'une décision aura été arrêtée par la Conférence, une Commission pourra se transporter sur le terrain pour régler toutes les questions de détail."

No. 107.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, June 5, 1880.

IN my telegram to your Lordship of the 31st ultimo, for "M. Grévy" please read "M. de Freycinet."

No. 108.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.)
Filibé, June 5, 1880.

THE leading Bulgarian agitators held on the 29th ultimo at Slivno a Congress, attended likewise by delegates from Principality.

As yet I have obtained only following positive information:—

They discussed present position of gymnasts, and resolved that, unless latter were immediately drawn into reserve of militia, their military exercises must be resumed.

The delegates from Bulgaria [groups wrong] military resources at disposal of province for "purpose of defence" in view of approaching difficulties in Turkey.

They also urged co-operation for speedy union, but the majority refused to compromise province by any initiative [*sic*] with latter object, and told delegates that they must induce their Prince to negotiate matter with the Great Powers.

I am assured the delegates left not well satisfied.

(Sent to Therapia and Sophia.)

No. 109.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 5, 1880.

MUSURUS PASHA called on me yesterday evening from interview with Sultan. He came mainly with reference to passage to which I referred in my telegram No. 13. Sultan is really frightened at responsibility placed on him, which he wished to have explained away. I pointed out that the Sultan had, by taking all [group wrong; ? responsibility] into his own hands and keeping a Ministry utterly discredited, brought this upon himself. I said that by surrounding himself again by a respectable and responsible Ministry he might replace himself in his former position, but that whole Diplomatic Body concurred in its being impossible to transact business with the present Ministers. I have offered to explain this fully to Sultan if His Majesty wishes, whom I shall then advise to summon a Parliament to lessen the responsibility which he now deprecates. It is essential, I think, to stand firm by the language used. Musurus Pasha

has done harm by minimizing features [*sic*] of present situation. Musurus Pasha further stated that as regards the Greek frontier Sultan would never give up Janina, Larissa, or Metzovo [group wrong], it was impossible for him as Caliph to do so. I declined to discuss the question with Musurus Pasha.

No. 110.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 5, 1880.

IT is reported that the Sultan has not accepted Midhat Pasha's resignation.

No. 111.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.)
Belgrade, June 6, 1880.

THE Skuptchina has approved the Austro-Servian Railway Convention by 122 votes to 40.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 6, 1880, 12·15 P.M.

HAVE the Austrians got over the difficulty as to Consular privileges and Capitulations in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and if so, how?

No. 113.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 6, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th, you may inform the Greek Government that it is proposed to hold the Conference at Berlin on the 16th instant. General Sir L. Simmons will be the officer appointed to assist Lord Odo Russell. They will both be instructed to give every attention to the representations of M. Ibrailas Armeni.

As you are aware, the proposal for the Conference was initiated by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 114.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 6, 1880, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 84, you should explain to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of proposing any measures which would subvert the local authority in Eastern Roumelia, or anything more than was indicated in my telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 1 of the 25th May.

No. 115.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 40A.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 6, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your language to Musurus Pasha and views expressed in your telegram No. 16.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 50.)
Foreign Office, June 6, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your telegram No. 16 of the 15th instant, and I have to inform your Excellency that the language you held to Musurus Pasha, and the views you express as therein reported, are approved by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 117.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 234.)
St. Petersburgh, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 75, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note from M. de Giers, in which his Excellency states that the Russian Government have no objections to the proposal of the French Government, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 107, provided all the other Cabinets agree to it.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Imperial Cabinet also desires to reserve its opinion as to the advisability of extending the functions of the proposed Conference until after it shall have addressed itself to the question of the Turco-Greek delimitation.

M. de Giers adds that the Russian Government will be glad, should the collective note about to be addressed to the Porte lead to a satisfactory solution of the pending difficulties. If not, other measures will be rendered necessary in order to carry out the demands of the Powers, not only as regards the Turco-Greek delimitation, but also in regard to the still more critical dispute between Montenegro and the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 117.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

St. Pétersbourg, le 14 Mai, 1880.

M. le Comte,

EN réponse à la note que votre Excellence m'a adressée sous la date du $\frac{24}{24}$ courant, je m'empresse de l'informer d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur que nous n'objections pas à la proposition du Gouvernement Français si elle rencontre l'assentiment de tous les Cabinets.

D'après cela au lieu du choix offert à la Porte d'envoyer sur les lieux la Commission Internationale pour la délimitation Turco-Grecque, ou bien de saisir de la question une Conférence des Ambassadeurs à Berlin si jusqu'à la mi-Juin le Gouvernement Turc n'avait pas donné une réponse satisfaisante, la dernière alternative serait seule mentionnée dans la note identique concertée entre les Puissances.

Le Cabinet Impérial partage l'opinion que, vu les lenteurs habituelles de la Porte, cette manière de procéder fera gagner du temps.

Quant à l'idée que nous avons suggéré d'étendre les travaux de la Conférence de Berlin à tous les points du Traité qui restent au souffrance, le Cabinet Impérial réserve également son opinion selon la marche des choses au moment où la Conférence se réunira.

Il se féliciterait si la démarche collective des Puissances à Constantinople due à l'initiative éclairée du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique réussissait à amener un arrangement pacifique satisfaisant des questions pendantes.

En ce cas, la Conférence réunie à Berlin se bornerait naturellement à l'œuvre de médiation pratique réclamée par la question de délimitation Turco-Grecque.

S'il en était autrement la nécessité d'aviser à assurer efficacement l'exécution des demandes collectives de l'Europe s'imposerait d'elle-même en vue de la délimitation Turco-Grecque, aussi bien que pour celle plus urgente de l'arrangement Turco-Monténégrin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 118.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 237.)
St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 112 of the 25th instant, that the Roumanian Minister here has spoken to M. de Giers on the subject of the Bulgarian Projet de Loi, by which the inhabitants of territory annexed to Roumania and Servia are entitled, by the mere fact of emigrating into the Principality, to become Bulgarian subjects. M. de Giers states that he pointed out to Prince Ghika that the Bulgarian Chambers had taken the idea from the Roumanian Constitution, special facilities being accorded to any one of Roumanian origin for adoping Roumanian nationality on emigrating to that country.

In reply to my question as to what view the Russian Government took of this Projet de Loi, M. de Giers said that until they had seen it they could not express any opinion, and the Russian Consul-General at Sophia had, as yet, merely reported that he was endeavouring to smooth down matters between the Roumanian and Servian agents and the Bulgarian authorities.

M. de Giers' private opinion is, that there must be some "bêtise" in the application of the new law which is causing the irritation between the two countries, and the Russian Government would in all probability use its influence to prevent the Bulgarian Government from carrying out the details of the proposed law in an improper manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 119.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 241.)
St. Petersburgh, June 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 115 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers, in which his Excellency states that the Imperial Cabinet agree with those Governments who wish to omit from the identic note the invitation to Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to the Conference to be held at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{20 \text{ Mai}}{1^{\text{er}} \text{ Juin}}$ 1880.

My Lord,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre de votre Excellence du $\frac{17}{29}$ Mai, par laquelle elle veut bien me communiquer le résumé des instructions données à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople, concernant la note identique à adresser à la Porte au sujet de la frontière Grecque.

Je m'empresse de vous informer que tout en adhérant aux termes de cette note, le Cabinet Impérial partage l'avis de ceux des Gouvernements qui voudraient en exclure la mention des Délégués Turcs et Grecs, dont il n'est pas question dans le Traité de Berlin.

Le Cabinet Impérial pense qu'en effet, comme il s'agit d'exercer une médiation, il serait peut-être irrégulier d'y faire participer des Délégués des parties en cause. Il suffirait de leur réserver de faire valoir leurs arguments respectifs à titre consultatif.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique trouvera sans doute un moyen pratique de concilier toutes les convenances, et nous sommes prêts à nous y rallier.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 120.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 242.)
St. Petersburgh, June 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE St. Petersburgh "Vedemoste" of the $\frac{29\text{th May}}{1\text{st June}}$ states, on the authority of the Caucasian newspaper "Mshak," that the number of emigrants from Russian territory has of late considerably increased.

These emigrants mostly belong to Adjaria, and the Turkish authorities allot them land adjoining the Russian frontier. This intelligence receives confirmation, from the fact that the population of the districts of Ardahan, Poshoff, Artoin, and Ardanutch are disposing of their houses, gardens, orchards, &c., to obtain means of transport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 121.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 244.)
St. Petersburgh, June 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Turkestan "Gazette" of the $\frac{5\text{th}}{17\text{th}}$ April, 1880, contains an order addressed to the troops of the Turkestan military circuit, which states, among other things, that with a view to putting an end to the raids made by the Turkomans on the Khirghiz of the Emba district, Mangishlak circuit, the Chief of the Amudarya region on the $\frac{5\text{th}}{17\text{th}}$ February, 1880, taking with him a detachment of four companies of infantry, one sotnia of Cossacks, and half a battery of artillery, crossed over the ice to the left bank of the Amu-Darya at Hanki, and passed through all the Turkoman aûls.

The order further states that during the march of the Russian troops no opposition was offered, and no repisals were made, and that since this excursion to the left bank of the river no further raids or disturbances have been attempted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 122.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 171.)
Athens, May 28, 1880.

My Lord,

IT had been the intention of the Greek Government to divide this summer the army, amounting to 12,500 men, into two equal parts, one of which is to be employed in guarding the frontier, looking after brigands, assisting the tax collectors in levying the taxes, and in general police duties; the other half was to be brought to Athens and form in the neighbourhood a Court for exercise and instruction.

In consequence, however, of the want of barrack accommodation in this city, and still more the necessity to have a force ready to take possession of any territory which Turkey may be induced to cede to Greece in Epirus, it has been arranged that between 3,000 and 4,000 men shall be sent to Corfu, where there are large barracks, and where they will be in close proximity to the coveted territory.

M. Tricoupi told me to-day that he felt confident of the ability of the Government to put down all opposition which might be shown by the Albanians to the cession of territory to Greece. The army, he added, although on a peace footing, consisting of not more than 12,500 men, could, if necessary, be increased in three weeks to four times that number, the "cadres" for such an increased force being kept up with that view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 123.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 241.) *Berlin, June 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated your Lordship's message of last night respecting the meeting of the Greek Frontier Commission, told me in reply that "after the 15th instant" would equally suit the German Government, but that, according to precedent, the Chancellor would not send out the invitations for it until he received a formal request from the Mediating Powers to convoke the Conference, in virtue of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 124.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 244.) *Berlin, June 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

MY French colleague tells me that he has this day made the official request on the part of his Government for the Conference on the Greek Frontier question, under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

The invitations will not be sent by the German Government until all the Mediating Powers have done likewise.

Prince Hohenlohe, whom I saw to-day, asked me whether the 16th instant would suit Her Majesty's Government for the first meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 125.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 451.) *Paris, June 5, 1880.*

My Lord,

M. DE FREYCINET told me this morning that the 16th of this month had been proposed by the German Government as the day for the opening of the Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin on the Greek Frontier question, and that he would take care that the Comte de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador, should be furnished with instructions by that date.

He added that a staff officer, or other competent person, would be sent to assist M. de St. Vallier with regard to geographical details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 126.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, June 7.*)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{31 \text{ Mai}}{12 \text{ Juin}}$ 1880.

NOUS sommes informés que Mr. Goschen a proposé une enquête collective sur le traitement des Musulmans en Roumélie et en Bulgarie.

L'impartialité envers les Musulmans, comme envers les Chrétiens, est de toute justice, mais une enquête collective formelle en Roumélie, et surtout en Bulgarie, serait un témoignage de défiance envers les Administrations de ces pays et préjugerait un blâme avant même que l'on sût si elles l'ont mérité.

Nous croyons par conséquent plus équitable d'attendre leur enquête, qui pourrait se faire avec le contrôle séparé et privé des Représentants locaux. Selon les résultats, les Puissances s'entendraient ensuite sur une démarche collective.

No. 127.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 6, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's Nos. 84 and 85.

German Government accept your Lordship's proposal for settlement of Montenegrin Frontier question if Austria and the other Powers are agreed upon it.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 6, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE has asked me whether the inquiry proposed to be made in Eastern Roumelia is to be confined to the alleged destruction of Turkish villages, or is to include inquiry into the maltreatment that the Mussulmans are said to have experienced.

No. 129.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, June 6, 1880.*

FRENCH text of Kirdjali Commission Report was handed to Governor-General yesterday.

No. 130.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 6, 1880.*

MUSURUS PASHA came again from the Sultan and brought a letter from the Sultan's Secretary. It requests me to give explanations in writing on three points raised by your Lordship's statement to Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and now communicated to Sultan by Musurus Pasha, and restated in identic language by myself at private audience. Letter states that Sultan has been greatly exercised with regard to them.

First point—I quote from letter: "Your Excellency says that the territorial limits of the supremacy of His Imperial Majesty will not be contracted more than has been done by the Treaty of Berlin; if this supremacy is not dissociated from the security and prosperity, &c. Does your Excellency mean by these words that if the security and prosperity of a province in the Empire may appear to be [?] d, this fact alone will entail their autonomy?"

I propose to answer: "No such meaning implied. Words even incorrectly quoted. They simply describe the policy of Her Majesty's Government, the measure of whose desire for the maintenance of Turkish supremacy depends on the execution of effectual reforms."

Second point. Passage declaring that conditions of Treaty of Berlin should be carried out in their spirit as well as in their letter. Question put: "Can His Majesty reckon that its execution will not be exclusively in favour of the other Powers?"

Propose to answer: "Her Majesty's Government will gladly use all their influence for an impartial execution of all clauses."

Third point thus stated: "Your Excellency affirms that if the recommendations of the British Cabinet are not carried out the whole of the [group wrong] on His Majesty. Does the Constitution of the Empire admit [some groups wrong]?"

Propose to answer that this was not said [? really], and simply to repeat original declaration, adding that doubtless Her Majesty's Government believed that His Majesty had power in his own hands to carry out his wishes; and, further, that the Article in Constitution giving him power to exile, a power which had been used, made Ministers absolutely dependent upon him, and that arrangements of Constitution were themselves in suspense; also, that if His Majesty would convoke a Parliament, protect freedom of debate, and give greater securities for [? independence] of Ministers, His Majesty would

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cease to incur that moral responsibility which, whatever may be the letter of Constitution, practically rests on a Sovereign in his position.

I told Musurus Pasha I considered correspondence most undesirable, and it would be better that I should explain verbally, but he tells me Sultan was most anxious for a written answer.

I propose above answers to your Lordship with all deference. There is no doubt Sultan is greatly perturbed. I have heard from several accounts that impression made has been profound. Musurus Pasha laments the incident deeply. I do not.

No. 131.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 21.) *Therapia, June 6, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

INFORMAL preliminary meeting of Ambassadors fixed for to-morrow is unavoidably postponed till Tuesday on account of M. Tissot's [group omitted; ? audience] being just arranged for to-morrow. This delay very vexatious.

No. 132.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 22.) *Therapia, June 7, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 30, may I presume that Montenegrin question must appear in identic note in old form, adding demand for adherence to April memorandum? I think that one might add demand that Signatory Powers should be entitled to send Military Attaché to Scutari military head-quarters to report faithful execution of Porte's engagements. Please reply immediately, as we meet to-morrow.

No. 133.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 23.) *Therapia, June 7, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT receives news of Abeddin Pasha being recalled from Salonica. He has been very energetic and did very well at Siwas before. Recall, if true, an important fact. It should, however, be remembered that he is a strongly pronounced Albanian.

No. 134.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 24.) *Therapia, June 7, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

SAWAS PASHA secretly told our First Dragoman that if Her Majesty's Government were prepared to save him and the Prime Minister from exile into some unhealthy part of the country, I should have no reason to complain of them with regard to reform. This is of course only a manœuvre, but illustrates Sultan's responsibility and my telegram No. 20.

No. 135.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 10.) *Pera, June 7, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen Turkish Commissioners. The information contained in my telegram No. 7 is correct. I have protested strongly against their conduct. There is an informal meeting of the other Commissioners here to-day.

No. 136.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 55.) *Rome, June 7, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Government had not yesterday received official invitation to Conference, but expect it to-day or to-morrow from German Chargé d'Affaires.

I acquainted them with what is said by Lord Odo Russell on this subject, as recorded in your telegram No. 100, and of your having addressed a note to Count Münster in consequence.

The 16th will suit them for the first meeting; but no officer is yet appointed to assist Count Launay at Berlin.

No. 137.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 46.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1880, 11·50 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram No. 20, the answers you propose to give seem very good and are approved.

Her Majesty's Government would like you to say "a well-constituted Parliament," and to close by repeating, or saying emphatically, that in the execution of the Treaty, and the concession of liberal and, above all, operative reforms, Her Majesty's Government hope for the salvation of the Turkish Empire, and in this way only.

No. 138.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 53.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1880.*
Sir,

YOUR telegram No. 20 of the 6th has been received, and Her Majesty's Government have considered the replies which your Excellency proposes to make to the questions put to you, on behalf of the Sultan, in a letter from His Majesty's Private Secretary. They would wish your Excellency to describe the Parliament which the Sultan should convoke as "a well-constituted Parliament," and that you should conclude your reply by repeating or saying emphatically that, in the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and the concession of liberal and, above all, operative reforms, Her Majesty's Government hope for the salvation of the Ottoman Empire, and in this way only.

Subject to these modifications, your Excellency's proposed answers are entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 546.) *Therapia, May 26, 1880.*
My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1091 of the 10th December last, I informed Lord Salisbury that it had been decided, at a meeting of the heads of Missions, to appoint a Commission of Dragomans belonging to the foreign Missions to examine and report upon the new Turkish Civil and Criminal Code.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Report which has, in consequence, been drawn up by these gentlemen, in which they point out the Articles in the new Code which are at variance with existing Treaties and the Capitulations.

A second meeting of the heads of Missions took place on the 12th instant, at which it was decided to send a copy of this Report to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Report.

Péra, le 2 Avril, 1880.

M. l

LA Commission de Drogmans à laquelle les Chefs de Mission ont confié le soin d'examiner les Codes d'Instruction Criminelle et de Procédure Civile, ainsi que les Règlements relatifs à l'organisation des Tribunaux Civils, à l'exécution des sentences, à l'institution d'un Ministère Public et d'un notariat, récemment promulgués par la Sublime Porte, a commencé ses travaux par la lecture attentive du texte Turc du Code d'Instruction Criminelle.

J'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence le résultat de cette étude et les conclusions arrêtées, d'un commun accord, entre les membres de la Commission.

Le Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman est calqué, à peu de différence près, sur le Code d'Instruction Criminelle Français. La traduction est littérale en maints endroits, approchante le plus souvent; çà et là se rencontrent, cependant, des modifications apportées à la loi Française, dont parfois des dispositions entières ont été écartées. C'est principalement sur la matière relative au jugement des crimes que les deux législations se séparent. Le législateur Ottoman, ayant renoncé à l'institution du jury, a mis de côté les Articles du Code Français qui ont trait à la formation des Cours d'Assises, à la procédure spéciale consacrée par devant ces Cours, au recrutement, à la Convocation et au fonctionnement du jury.

D'autre part, les Juges de Paix n'existant pas en Turquie, les attributions que la loi Française leur confère, comme Juges de Police, et celles qui appartiennent également aux Maires, en matière de contraventions de simple police, sont dévolues dans le Code Ottoman, à des Tribunaux de Canton ("Caza mehkémleri").

Après avoir constaté que le Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman, pris dans son ensemble, était un emprunt fait à la législation de la France, la Commission s'est occupée du personnel judiciaire auquel le Gouvernement Impérial en remettait l'application; elle s'est demandée surtout si sa mise en vigueur pouvait aisément se concilier avec le respect des garanties que les Capitulations assurent aux étrangers, et, finalement, s'il ne serait pas opportun de suggérer à la Sublime Porte d'apporter certaines modifications à son œuvre législative.

Nouveaux Agents du Service Judiciaire.

La promulgation du Code a amené la création d'une nouvelle classe de fonctionnaires de l'ordre judiciaire, les Procureurs Impériaux et leurs substituts, qui ont pour mission de rechercher et de poursuivre les délits et les crimes dont la connaissance appartient aux Tribunaux Correctionnels et aux Cours d'Appel, ces dernières remplaçant les Cours d'Assises pour le jugement des crimes.

Les attributions du Juge d'Instruction, ou "Mustantiq," ont été considérablement agrandies. Les "Mustantiqs" formaient jusqu'à présent une catégorie spéciale de fonctionnaires attachés aux Tribunaux. Ils étaient placés sous la direction immédiate des Présidents. Leur vie se passait à faire des enquêtes et à entendre des témoins. Ils végétaient dans cette ornière, sans pouvoir aspirer à l'honneur d'être un jour membres du Tribunal. Grâce au nouveau système, ils en font aujourd'hui partie et leurs fonctions s'en trouvent sensiblement rehaussées; malheureusement, le personnel qui les compose n'est pas plus préparé que celui des Procureurs Impériaux à remplir, comme il convient, les importantes fonctions qui leur sont dévolues.

La Commission n'a pas été peu surprise de voir les bekdjis et les couroudjis rangés au nombre des officiers de police qui, aux termes de l'Article 6, ont mandat pour rechercher les crimes, les délits, et les contraventions, en rassembler les preuves et en livrer les auteurs aux Tribunaux chargés de les punir. Votre Excellence n'ignore certainement pas ce que c'est qu'un "bekdji," cet homme qui veille, la nuit, à la sécurité des habitants et des foyers, qui parcourt son quartier, armé d'un gros bâton, dont il fait résonner le pavé des rues, comme si son intention était de donner l'éveil aux malfaiteurs. Il dort le jour pour être dispos le soir venu. Les habitants n'oublient pas de stimuler son zèle par des pourboires mensuels; ce qui ne l'empêche pas d'être, parfois, justement soupçonné de fermer les yeux sur les agissements des voleurs. Toute question de fidélité à part, il est d'une ignorance absolue, au point qu'il n'a jamais su ni lire ni écrire.

Le couroudji, lui, veille à la garde des forêts; il ne le cède en rien en ignorance au bekdji, son collègue de la ville et du village; à ne voir que les apparences, on le prendrait volontiers, au coin d'un bois, pour un bandit dont, au reste, il a aussi bien l'instinct que les allures. Tels sont les personnages que le législateur Ottoman a transformés en officiers

de la Police Judiciaire, chargés, nous le verrons plus loin, de rédiger des Rapports destinés faire foi en justice, comme ceux du garde champêtre et du garde-forestier Français.

La liste des officiers de la Police Judiciaire comprend: (1) les Caïmacams ou Sous-Préfets des arrondissements; (2) les Mudirs ou Maires des cantons; (3) les Procureurs Impériaux; (4) les Mustantiqs; (5) les officiers de gendarmerie; (6) les Mouktars, ou Chefs des villages; (7) les membres des Ikhtiars-Medjlissis, ou Conseils des Anciens, qui existent dans les villages, et y représentent, quoique bien imparfaitement, les Conseils Municipaux des petites communes d'Europe; (8) les bedjiks; (9) les couroudjis (Article 9).

Toutefois, les Caïmacams, les Mudirs, les Présidents des Ikhtiars-Medjlissis, les officiers de gendarmerie, et les Commissaires de Police, sont plus particulièrement considérés comme les auxiliaires du Procureur Impérial, si bien que la disposition de l'Article 45 leur donne qualité pour recevoir la dénonciation des délits et crimes commis dans les lieux où ils exercent leurs fonctions habituelles, et, en cas de flagrant délit, les déclare aptes à recevoir les dépositions des témoins et à dresser les procès-verbaux et autres actes de la compétence naturelle des Procureurs Impériaux, sauf à envoyer le tout à ces derniers dans le plus bref délai (Articles 46 et 48).

Rôle à Assigner au Drogman.

Quel est, maintenant, dans ce nouvel ordre de choses, la situation faite aux étrangers?

Le législateur Ottoman a élaboré sa loi sur l'instruction criminelle sans se préoccuper, le moins du monde, des étrangers et des stipulations internationales qui les concernent.

Il est parti de ce point de départ que la nouvelle loi est appelée à régir tous les habitants du territoire et que tous sont Ottomans, et doivent être traités comme tels. Il est donc indispensable de s'en expliquer avec la Porte de manière à ce qu'il soit bien entendu que rien ne sera changé aux usages suivis jusqu'ici, en vertu des Traités, c'est-à-dire, que toutes les fois que l'étranger sera impliqué, comme auteur, complice, ou simple témoin dans un crime, un délit, ou une Convention, il sera assisté, dans tout le cours de la procédure, par le délégué de l'Ambassadeur à Constantinople, et par le Consul ou son délégué dans les provinces.

Votre Excellence me permettra d'entrer, à ce sujet, dans quelques détails, et de mettre sous ses yeux les espèces les plus pratiques que je relève dans le Code, en suivant l'ordre des matières.

L'Article 16 porte que les bekdjis et les couroudjis se saisiront des objets volés, s'ils les trouvent, et ne pourront, néanmoins, s'introduire dans les maisons, ateliers, bâtiments, dépendances, enclos, qu'accompagnés, selon les cas, du Moukhtar, d'un membre de l'Ikhtiar-Medjlissi, ou du Commissaire de Police, du Caïmacam, ou du Mudir.

L'Article 33 est ainsi conçu:—"Si, en raison de la nature du délit, il y a présomption que la preuve pourra en être acquise par les effets et papiers se trouvant chez le prévenu, le Procureur Impérial se rendra de suite à domicile pour en faire la perquisition."

L'Article 34 ajoute:—"S'il existe dans le domicile de l'inculpé des effets et papiers pouvant servir à conviction, ou à décharge, le Procureur Impérial en dressera procès-verbal et saisira les susdits effets et papiers."

L'Article 44 prévoit le cas où le Procureur Impérial, ayant appris par une dénonciation qu'un délit ou un crime a été commis, charge le Juge d'Instruction de se transporter sur les lieux et de dresser tous procès-verbaux nécessaires.

Les Articles 82 et 83 donnent, d'ailleurs, directement au Juge d'Instruction la faculté de se rendre au domicile du prévenu, d'y entrer, et de mettre la main sur tous les effets et papiers considérés comme pouvant servir à la découverte de la vérité. Il peut se rendre, de même, partout ailleurs où le prévenu aurait caché les effets et papiers en question.

L'Article 370 relatif à la procédure en matière de faux, dit que le Président de la Cour d'Appel Criminelle, les Procureurs Impériaux, et leurs substituts, les membres des Ikhtiars-Medjlissis, les Juges d'Instruction pourront faire, en dehors de leur ressort, les perquisitions nécessaires chez les personnes prévenues d'avoir fabriqué ou introduit dans l'Empire ou distribué de fausses monnaies, de faux cachets officiels, et de faux billets de banque.

Dans tous les cas prévus par les dispositions qui précèdent et, généralement, toutes les fois qu'il s'agira de pénétrer dans la maison du prévenu, il doit être établi expressément s'il est étranger, qu'aucune perquisition ni saisie ne pourra être opérée chez lui, sans le concours et en dehors de la présence du Drogman.

Il est non moins nécessaire de poser, autant que possible, une règle fixe dans les questions souvent délicates de l'arrestation des étrangers.

L'Article 37 est ainsi conçu: "En cas de flagrant délit ("djemimechhoud") et s'il s'agit

d'un fait de nature à entraîner une peine infamante (" mudjazati terhibiyé "), le Procureur Impérial fera arrêter, si elles sont présentes, les personnes contre lesquelles existeraient des indices graves de culpabilité. Si elles ne sont pas présentes, il délivrera contre elles un ordre de comparution."

Ce mandat de comparution, s'il s'agit d'un étranger, devra lui être transmis par l'intermédiaire du Drogman. Mais y a-t-il lieu de reconnaître à l'autorité Ottomane le droit de s'emparer de la personne de tout prévenu, sans s'inquiéter s'il est Ottoman ou étranger, lorsqu'il est pris sur le fait, au moment où il commet le crime ou le délit, ou bien lorsqu'il est poursuivi par la clameur publique ou trouvé, immédiatement après la perpétration du délit ou du crime, saisi d'effets, armes, instruments, ou papiers faisant présumer qu'il est auteur ou complice?

La Commission s'est prononcée sans hésitation pour l'affirmative, à la condition seulement que la Chancellerie dont relève l'étranger pris en flagrant délit soit avisée aussitôt après, dans les vingt-quatre heures au plus tard, conformément à l'usage actuellement suivi.

L'urgence, pour l'autorité Ottomane, d'agir sans retard, dans les cas de flagrant délit, sans autre préoccupation que celle de s'emparer du corps du délit, la probabilité, pour ne pas dire la certitude, selon les circonstances, de la culpabilité du prévenu, justifient suffisamment la faculté laissée à cette autorité d'arrêter directement l'étranger.

En dehors du cas spécial, exceptionnel, du flagrant délit, on ne saurait reconnaître à la police locale aucune espèce de droit d'arrêter en public ou n'importe où, un étranger sous prétexte que la justice saisie de l'instruction d'un délit ou d'un crime a trouvé des charges contre lui. L'arrestation, dans ce cas, ne peut et ne doit avoir lieu qu'avec l'assentiment et le concours de l'autorité naturelle de l'inculpé.

La disposition de l'Article 31 a éveillé, dans la même ordre d'idées, l'attention des membres de la Commission. Cet Article dit que " le Procureur Impérial qui, en cas de flagrant délit, se sera transporté sur les lieux pour constater le corps du délit, son état, l'aspect des lieux, et recevoir les déclarations des personnes présentes, qui auraient des renseignements à donner, pourra interdire, jusqu'à ce que le procès-verbal soit rédigé, de sortir de la maison ou du quartier où le délit a été commis, et les contrevenants à cette défense seront arrêtés, si on leur met la main dessus, et emprisonnés, sinon cités et, s'ils ne se présentent pas, ils seront, sans appel ni recours, condamnés par le Juge d'Instruction, sur la demande du Procureur Impérial, jusqu'à trois jours de prison et deux livres d'amende."

La Commission est d'avis que l'application de ces peines à un étranger ne doit avoir lieu qu'en présence et avec l'accord du Drogman. Le peu de garanties qu'offrent les Mustantiqs, ou Juges d'Instruction, rendent cette dernière précaution opportune, sinon nécessaire.

Si l'étranger est inculpé, l'interrogatoire devra avoir lieu en présence du Drogman. S'il est simplement cité comme témoin à charge ou à décharge, les citations devront lui être transmises par l'intermédiaire de son autorité qui assistera à sa déposition et la signera, comme cela se pratiquait jusqu'ici.

A propos des auditions de témoins, il y a intérêt à maintenir le droit du Drogman à assister non-seulement à l'interrogatoire des témoins cités par son intermédiaire, mais encore à celui de tous autres témoins étrangers ou Ottomans qui pourraient, le cas échéant, être entendus dans le cours de la même instruction.

En supposant, un crime étant donné, plusieurs étrangers ou Ottomans prévenus d'en être les auteurs ou complices, il y a souvent un grand intérêt à ce que le Drogman soit présent à toutes les dépositions sans distinction de nationalité des témoins ou des accusés. Ce n'est qu'à ce prix qu'il sera à même de se rendre exactement compte du degré de culpabilité, peut-être de l'innocence de celui ou ceux des prévenus qu'il a le devoir d'assister. Ce droit, d'ailleurs, n'avait jamais été contesté; il importe de ne pas l'abandonner.

Dans le titre consacré aux Juges d'Instruction se trouve une disposition qui, si elle n'est pas modifiée, restera matériellement inapplicable aux étrangers. Il s'agit de l'opposition que le prévenu ou la partie civile peuvent présenter contre les ordonnances du Juge d'Instruction. D'après le Code Ottoman, la partie civile peut s'opposer à l'Ordonnance de mise en liberté provisoire ou de non-lieu, prévue par les Articles 109, 123, 124, 126 et 431; le prévenu, lui, ne peut attaquer une Ordonnance du Juge d'Instruction que pour cause d'incompétence (Article 431), mais l'opposition, dans tous les cas, doit être présentée dans les vingt-quatre heures, à dater, pour le prévenu, de la signification faite à son domicile, s'il est en liberté provisoire, ou à la prison, par l'office du greffier, s'il est arrêté préventivement; et, pour la partie civile, du jour de la signification de l'Ordonnance. L'Article 31 est formel à ce sujet. Ce délai est absolument insuffisant si le prévenu ou la partie civile sont étrangers. Il faut, au moins, trois jours pour laisser le temps matériel à

l'acte d'opposition d'arriver aux mains de l'autorité étrangère à laquelle il devra être adressé, d'être traduit et ensuite présenté au Tribunal.

Les Juges d'Instruction rédigeront, selon les cas, des mandats de comparution (" ihzar "), d'amener (" djelb "), de dépôt et d'arrêt (" tevqif muvaqqat et ghairi muvaqqat "). Ces divers mandats devront être signifiés au prévenu étranger par l'intermédiaire de son autorité naturelle.

Les détails qui précèdent vous paraîtront, je l'espère, suffisants, M. l , pour expliquer ce que devra être le rôle du Drogman dans l'application du nouveau Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman. Je le résume en disant que le Drogman devra assister l'étranger dans tous les actes de la procédure et aucune sentence ni arrêt ne pourra être rendu en dehors de sa présence, comme par le passé.

Modifications à Introduire dans le Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman.

Ces réserves une fois faites, en ce qui concerne les étrangers, votre Excellence me permettra de soumettre à sa haute appréciation quelques modifications à apporter au Code Ottoman dans l'intérêt commun des justiciables. La Commission a pensé qu'elles étaient de nature à être prises en considération par la Porte et qu'il y aurait lieu de les lui suggérer.

On rencontre tout d'abord, non sans étonnement, dans l'Article 1er de la nouvelle loi, une expression qui est à la fois une anomalie et une contradiction: c'est l'expression de *qissas* ou peine du talion. L'Article 1er du Code Français est ainsi conçu: " L'action pour l'application des peines n'appartient qu'aux fonctionnaires auxquels elle est confiée par la loi; l'action en réparation du dommage causé par un crime, par un délit, ou par une contravention peut être exercée par tous ceux qui ont souffert de ce dommage." Le Législateur Ottoman a reproduit, comme il suit, cette première disposition de la loi Française: " L'action pour l'application des peines est de droit public et, par conséquent, n'appartient qu'aux fonctionnaires désignés par la loi. L'action en dommages-intérêts causés par un crime, un délit, ou une contravention est de droit privé et, partant, ceux qui ont souffert du dommage sont libres de demander ou non réparation, et, en cas de meurtre, l'application de la peine du talion."

L'idée du *qissas* jure avec l'esprit et le système du nouveau Code qui a créé des Procureurs Impériaux, c'est-à-dire, un Ministère Public à qui il appartient de poursuivre les délits et les crimes et d'en demander la punition, non pas au point de vue de la législation surannée du talion, mais en conformité des dispositions du Code Pénal Ottoman. C'est donc une expression malheureuse qui n'a aucune raison d'être et qui doit être effacée du frontispice du Code. Elle ne s'y est glissée évidemment qu'à la faveur d'une concession faite, au moment de l'élaboration des nouvelles lois, par les partisans du système judiciaire Européen aux adeptes du vieux système Turc.

A propos de l'Article 7, qui prévoit le cas de crimes commis en pays étranger, la Commission a exprimé le regret que le législateur Ottoman ait préféré reproduire l'ancienne disposition de la Loi Française du 17 Novembre, 1808, modifiée depuis par la Loi du 27 Juin, 1866.

La Loi du 17 Novembre, 1808, était ainsi conçue:—" Tout Français qui se sera rendu coupable, hors du territoire du royaume, d'un crime contre un Français pourra, à son retour en France, y être poursuivi et jugé, s'il n'a pas été poursuivi et jugé en pays étranger, et si le Français rend plainte contre lui."

Le texte Turc est à peu près libellé de même:—" Si un Ottoman, en dehors du territoire Turc, a commis un crime contre un autre Ottoman, et rentre en Turquie, et qu'il soit établi qu'il ne lui a pas été appliqué, en pays étranger, la peine que comporte le crime dont il est prévenu, il sera poursuivi et jugé."

La Loi Française de 1808 visait seulement les cas de crimes commis, en pays étranger, par un Français contre un Français, et elle exigeait au surplus que le Français portât plainte. Quant aux délits, elle ne s'en occupait pas. L'Article 7 du Code Ottoman étant calqué sur l'ancienne loi Française, sauf en ce qui concerne la nécessité de la plainte, dont l'Article 7 ne parle pas, il en résulte que les Tribunaux Ottomans ne pourront connaître que des crimes commis, en pays étranger, par un Ottoman contre un Ottoman, et nullement des crimes commis, en pays étranger, entre un Ottoman et un étranger. Un Ottoman assassine un Anglais à Londres, par exemple, et se réfugie en Turquie. Le Ministère Public Ottoman ne pourra pas le rechercher et le poursuivre. Il en serait de même si la victime était un Ottoman et que les auteurs ou complices fussent des étrangers habitant, après le crime, le sol Ottoman. Quant aux délits commis, en pays étranger, entre Ottomans, la justice Ottomane ne s'en saisit pas; encore moins

le ferait-elle s'il s'agissait d'un délit commis par un Ottoman contre un étranger ou vice-versâ.

Cette législation avait donné lieu depuis longtemps, en France, à de vives critiques auxquelles la Loi du 27 Juin, 1866, moins exclusive et plus libérale, est venue donner, en partie, satisfaction, en disposant que le Français pourra être poursuivi, en France, pour n'importe quel crime commis par lui, en pays étranger, contre des particuliers, et pour tout délit dont il se serait rendu coupable, pourvu, toutefois, que le fait délictueux soit également puni par la législation du pays où il a été commis.

Passons à un autre sujet. Votre Excellence, au commencement de ce Rapport, de certains officiers de police judiciaire que le Code Ottoman a investis du rôle assigné, dans le Code Français, aux gardes champêtres et forestiers de France. L'état d'ignorance des "bekdjis" et des "couroudjis," leur incapacité absolue de dresser eux-mêmes les procès-verbaux que la loi exige d'eux, dans les cas qu'elle a prévus, la nécessité pour eux de s'en remettre à des tiers pour la rédaction, l'absence de garanties inhérente aux conditions mêmes de l'existence qu'ils mènent, sont tout autant de considérations qui empêchent d'accorder à leurs procès-verbaux une confiance suffisante.

Il eût mieux valu les laisser à leur place que de les élever à l'honneur d'un rôle qu'ils sont incapables d'apprécier et de remplir. Il est, tout au moins, indispensable, s'ils sont conservés dans le cadre des agents de la police judiciaire, que des instructions soient envoyées au Tribunaux, aux fins que les Rapports émanant des "bekdjis" et des "couroudjis" ne soient pas considérés comme devant faire pleine foi en justice. Le Procureur Impérial ("le mustantiq"), le Tribunal doivent rester entièrement libres de les prendre ou non en considération.

La Commission a été également d'avis que le législateur Ottoman avait trop présumé de ce qu'il est permis d'attendre des Moukhtars, ou Chefs de Quartier, dont il est fait mention dans certaines dispositions du Code. L'Article 78, au chapitre consacré aux Juges d'Instruction, s'exprime ainsi :—"Lorsque les témoins ne peuvent se rendre, pour cause de maladie, à l'invitation à comparaître qui leur est adressée, et que la maladie est constatée par le certificat d'un médecin ou d'un officier de santé, le Mustantiq, si les témoins habitent la même localité que lui, se transportera, en personne, chez eux, et, s'ils sont domiciliés dans un autre bourg ou village, il déléguera, à sa place, les Moukhtars du village ou du quartier, et leur adressera les instructions sur ce qu'ils demanderont aux témoins."

Il est à noter que cet Article est emprunté à la loi Française, qui autorise, dans ce cas, le Juge d'Instruction à commettre le Juge de Paix du lieu où habitent les témoins. Les Juges de Paix n'existant pas en Turquie, les rédacteurs du Code Ottoman, qui ne sont jamais embarrassés pour trouver des assimilations, ont tout simplement substitué, en cette circonstance, les Moukhtars du pays aux Juges de Paix Français.

L'Article 79 ajoute que : "Si les témoins sont domiciliés hors de l'arrondissement du Juge d'Instruction, ce dernier requerra le Juge d'Instruction du lieu du domicile des témoins d'entendre leurs dépositions, et si ces témoins habitent en dehors du bourg ou village où il se trouve lui-même, il pourra charger le Moukhtar, comme dans l'Article précédent, de procéder à l'audition des témoins." La Commission a trouvé exagérée la confiance des rédacteurs du Code dans les aptitudes des Moukhtars, en général, à remplir le mandat que ces dispositions législatives leur confèrent. Toute pièce émanant d'eux, tous procès-verbaux, par exemple, de la nature de ceux dont il s'agit, devraient conserver le caractère de simples éléments d'information, comme pour les "bekdjis" et les "couroudjis," sans avoir celui de rapports légaux destinés à faire pleinement foi en justice. Mieux vaudrait, d'ailleurs, prescrire aux Juges d'Instruction de se déplacer partout où besoin sera et de vaquer en personne à toutes enquêtes et auditions de témoins.

Les attributions des Juges d'Instruction sont les mêmes dans le Code Ottoman que dans le Code Français. C'est vous dire, M. l'Ambassadeur, quelle en est l'importance. Le Gouvernement Impérial manque totalement, et manquera longtemps encore d'hommes capables d'exercer convenablement ces graves fonctions. L'unique moyen de parer, dans une certaine mesure, aux inconvénients résultant de l'insuffisance des nouveaux Mustantiqs eût été de les maintenir en charge le plus longtemps possible. Il est regrettable que le législateur Ottoman ait cru devoir limiter à trois ans, comme dans le Code Français, la durée des fonctions des Juges d'Instruction. "Il se trouvera," dit l'Article 30, "dans chaque canton un Mustantiq, nommé par Iradé Impérial, pour une période de trois ans." Le même Article ajoute, heureusement, que ce terme pourra être prolongé. Il est vivement à souhaiter qu'il en soit ainsi, et que, dans la pratique, la période de trois ans n'ait rien de limitatif. Il importe que le Gouvernement Impérial se pénètre bien de cette idée qu'avec la machine judiciaire compliquée qu'il vient d'emprunter à l'Europe, ses

Juges d'Instruction, que je veux supposer intègres, ne commenceront qu'au bout de ce temps à s'en servir régulièrement et efficacement dans l'intérêt de la justice.

D'après l'Article 51, les Juges d'Instruction peuvent être pris parmi les membres des Tribunaux de Première Instance, et, en cas de besoin, le Président a la faculté de désigner un des Juges du Tribunal qui cumulera, momentanément, les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction avec les siennes propres. La loi laisse entendre que le Juge, dans ce cas, siégera, en même temps, au Tribunal, lors du Jugement ou Arrêt à intervenir, dans les affaires qu'il aurait instruites. Il est peu probable cependant que telle ait été la pensée des rédacteurs du Code; mais comme le doute est permis, en présence des termes mêmes de l'Article 51, et que la question ne manque pas d'importance, il y aurait tout opportunité à compléter la loi par un membre de phrase additionnel, en ce sens que le Juge chargé de l'instruction d'une affaire ne prendra pas part à la délibération et au Jugement qui suivront la déposition de son Rapport.

Au chapitre consacré à la liberté provisoire et au cautionnement, la Commission a relevé cette différence avec le Code Français qu'il n'est exigé du prévenu Ottoman qu'il s'agit de mettre en liberté provisoire, aucun cautionnement qui réponde du dommage réclamé par la partie civile. Le cautionnement dont il est question, en faveur de la partie civile, ne représente que la somme nécessaire pour l'indemniser de ses frais judiciaires.

La loi Ottomane, dans les Articles 117, 118, 119, 120 sur la matière, s'éloigne sensiblement du texte de la loi Française. On ne s'explique pas, entre autres choses, pourquoi le prévenu ne serait pas admis à être sa propre caution, moyennant le versement du chiffre fixé pour le cautionnement, ou en justifiant d'immeubles libres capables d'en répondre et au delà ; il serait désirable que la loi soit complétée sur ces deux points.

Le Juge d'Instruction peut, en vertu de l'Article 123, sur une simple Ordonnance par lui rendue, mettre l'inculpé en liberté, s'il est d'avis que le fait incriminé ne présente ni crime, ni délit, ni contravention, ou qu'il n'existe aucune charge contre l'inculpé, et qu'il n'y a pas lieu de déférer l'affaire au Tribunal. C'est la réproduction presque textuelle de l'Article 128 du Code Français, tel qu'il a été modifié par la Loi du 17 Juillet, 1856. Avant cette époque, le Juge d'Instruction, en France, n'avait pas la faculté de faire des Ordonnances de non-lieu, et de mise en liberté. Ce droit était réservé au Tribunal à qui appartenait l'entière appréciation des faits. Il est très-regrettable que le législateur Ottoman ait oublié la distance qui sépare le Juge d'Instruction Français avec le Mustantiq Turc, au point ne pas se rendre compte que l'exercice du droit en question peut ne présenter que des avantages, en France, dans les conditions où fonctionne la magistrature de ce pays, et n'offrir, ici, que des dangers sans compensation. L'Article 123 doit être nécessairement modifiée, et les pouvoirs qu'il confère aux Mustantiqs seuls doivent être donnés au Tribunal.

L'Article 136, à propos des délais à fixer dans les mandats de comparution, compte par myriamètres, comme si le système métrique décrété dans le temps, par un Iradé Impérial, avait jamais été mis en pratique.

"La citation ('djelb') y est-il dit, ne peut être écrite pour un délai moindre de vingt-quatre heures, en sus de deux jours par chaque myriamètre, à peine de nullité tant de la citation que du Jugement qui sera rendu par défaut."

C'est à peu de chose près la reproduction du texte Français. La même mesure de distance revient ailleurs et on peut vraiment se demander s'il est un Juge d'Instruction dans l'Empire qui s'en rende exactement compte; ce n'est là, d'ailleurs, qu'une expression dépaysée, à l'heure actuelle, dans une œuvre législative Ottomane et qui ne mérite pas qu'on s'y arrête autrement.

Une anomalie de plus haute importance est celle qui est relative au système de juridiction adoptée à l'égard des affaires criminelles.

Le Code Ottoman, tout en écartant l'institution du jury, a conservé la Chambre de Mise en Accusation. Seulement, cette Chambre, au lieu d'être composée, comme dans le Code Français, d'une fraction des Juges de la Cour d'Appel, est formé (Article 200) de trois Juges pris dans le Tribunal de Première Instance du chef-lieu d'arrondissement ("liva bédayet mehkémessi"). Si la Chambre de Mise en Accusation (Article 213) trouve que le fait, dont le prévenu est accusé, est qualifié crime par la loi et qu'il existe contre lui des preuves suffisantes de culpabilité, elle ordonnera le renvoi de l'affaire au Tribunal de Première Instance du liva ou à la Cour d'Appel. D'où il résulte que l'affaire ainsi renvoyée par la Chambre inférieure de Mise en Accusation à la Cour d'Appel ne suivra qu'un seul degré de juridiction. Dans l'organisation Française, une seule Cour, il est vrai, est compétente pour l'examen et le Jugement des crimes, c'est la Cour d'Assises, mais chacun sait quelle est la place qu'y occupe le jury. Du moment où on écartait le jury, il eut été naturel, logique, de ménager aux affaires criminelles le bénéfice des deux degrés de juridiction, comme pour les affaires correctionnelles. Il n'existe pour les affaires criminelles que le recours en

Cassation, lequel est, du reste, ouvert à tous les Jugements, sans exception, rendus au criminel, au correctionnel, ou en matière de simple police (Article 313).

Conclusion.

Tel est, M. l le résumé fidèle des observations, réserves et modifications que la lecture attentive du Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman à inspirées à la Commission.

Le nouveau Code est appelé à remplacer par devant les Tribunaux Criminels, Correctionnels et de simple police la procédure basée sur l'usage qui y était suivie jusqu'à ce jour. La loi positive se substitue, ainsi, aux errements qui ont trop souvent, dans le passé, ouvert la porte à l'arbitraire et aux abus; c'est, à ce point de vue, un progrès et, en empruntant à l'Europe le mécanisme de sa nouvelle procédure pénale, le Gouvernement Ottoman, sans mériter, de tous points, les éloges auxquelles Savas Pacha fait allusion dans sa Circulaire du 5 Janvier aux Chefs de Missions, a droit de s'attendre à ce que les Puissances aient égard aux efforts persévérants tentés, dans ces dernières années, pour résoudre le problème concernant l'adoption définitive du système judiciaire Européen. Grandes, en effet, ont été les vicissitudes de la lutte qui est restée longtemps engagée, dans les Conseils du Gouvernement, entre les défenseurs de la vieille législation du Chéri et les partisans du système judiciaire en vigueur chez les nations les plus civilisées de l'Europe.

Mais la Porte, en empruntant à l'étranger une législation qui avait pour elle l'épreuve du temps et lui paraissait mieux répondre que la sienne aux exigences de l'heure actuelle, s'est-elle suffisamment préoccupée de la nécessité, d'avoir sous la main un personnel capable de l'appliquer et de lui faire produire immédiatement des résultats utiles?

Elle n'y a pas même songé et a jeté de toutes pièces dans les Tribunaux le Code qui nous occupe, ainsi que d'autres lois, sachant parfaitement que tel fonctionnaire qui devait en appliquer les dispositions le lendemain ne les connaissait pas la veille. Elle a pensé que, dans tous les cas, la nouvelle loi pénale n'empirerait pas la situation qui était loin d'être satisfaisante, et tendrait, au contraire, à l'améliorer progressivement. Elle considère l'inexpérience des premiers jours, la confusion, les illégalités et peut-être les injustices qui en seront la conséquence, comme des inconvénients inséparables de l'application d'un corps de loi de cette nature, mais essentiellement passagers.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se fait illusion à cet égard et il oublie que les lois, comme les institutions, ne produisent de fruits durables qu'en raison de ce que valent les hommes qui les servent ou les appliquent. En l'état, les Missions étrangères qui ont le devoir de protéger les intérêts de leurs nationaux ne peuvent que redoubler de vigilance en présence des changements profonds apportés dans l'administration de la justice par la brusque introduction de la nouvelle organisation judiciaire.

J'ai eu l'honneur d'exposer plus haut à votre Excellence que le Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman était par lui-même un progrès. Il faut l'accepter en principe, tel est l'avis unanime des membres de la Commission, mais à la condition expresse, toutefois, que, dans son application, il ne sera porté aucune atteinte aux prérogatives que les Traités assurent aux étrangers, c'est-à-dire, que le Drogman assistera à tous actes de procédure, toutes délibérations, tous Jugements ou Arrêts concernant l'étranger en cause. Le Ministère de la justice a déjà affirmé, à plusieurs reprises, son intention de ne rien changer, en ce qui touche l'assistance du Drogman, aux règles et usages établis. Nous savons qu'il a donné à ses nouveaux agents judiciaires certaines instructions à cet égard. Que la Porte le dise elle-même et l'écrive nettement et franchement aux Chefs de Missions.

C'est à elle, aussi, qu'il appartient d'introduire dans le Code d'Instruction Criminelle les modifications, les unes utiles, les autres nécessaires, qui lui sont signalées. Il y a tout lieu de croire qu'elle s'y prêtera volontiers. La désignation qu'elle vient de faire de Parnis Effendi, son conseiller légal, pour la représenter auprès de la Commission Internationale des Délégués est une preuve de son désir d'arriver à une entente avec les Chefs de Missions sur la base du respect de prérogatives consacrées par les Traités, en faveur des étrangers. Elle aura, d'autre part, d'autant moins d'objections à accueillir la demande d'une révision de certaines dispositions de son œuvre législative, qu'elle en a déjà pris elle-même l'initiative par la nomination d'une Commission instituée à cet effet et composée de Costaki Effendi Anthopoulo, Ohannès Bey, Procureurs-Généraux près la Cour de Cassation, Emin Effendi, Conseiller à la Cour d'Appel, Section Criminelle, Chéfik Bey, Inspecteur des Tribunaux, et Ibrahim, Président du Tribunal de Première Instance de Stamboul, Section Correctionnelle.

Il est donc permis d'entrevoir, dès maintenant, la solution prochaine des difficultés pendantes et comme conséquence, la cessation du trouble que les décisions précipitées du Gouvernement ont jeté dans l'administration de la justice et la régularisation d'un état de choses qui ne peut se prolonger sans péril pour les intérêts des justiciables.

Je suis avec respect, M. l

Membres de la Commission:

Pour l'Allemagne	.. ..	M. de Tischendorf.
„ l'Autriche-Hongrie	.. ..	M. de Yanco.
„ la Belgique	.. ..	M. Callinus.
„ l'Espagne	.. ..	M. E. Timoni.
„ les Etats-Unis	.. ..	M. Gargiulo.
„ la France	.. ..	M. Rougon.
„ la Grande Bretagne	..	MM. Stavridès et Alichan.
„ la Grèce	.. .. ..	M. Antipa.
„ l'Italie	.. .. ..	M. Barone.
„ la Perse	.. .. ..	MM. Giorgaki et Barozzi.
„ la Roumanie	.. ..	M. Constantinidi.
„ la Russie	.. .. ..	M. Maximow.
„ la Suède et Norvége	..	M. G. Timoni.

M. ROUGON, *Rapporteur.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

The Foreign Representatives at Constantinople to Savas Pasha.

Péra, le 12 *Mai*, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

LES Soussignés ont l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence un Rapport sur le nouveau Code d'Instruction Criminelle Ottoman qui leur a été adressé par la Commission de Drogmans chargée de l'examiner.

Ils en recommandent les conclusions à la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement Impérial et s'en remettent avec confiance à son initiative pour introduire le plus tôt possible dans la nouvelle loi les modifications qui lui sont signalées.

Les Soussignées ne doutent pas d'ailleurs de l'active sollicitude que votre Excellence mettra à donner à ce Rapport la suite qu'il comporte en vue de leur permettre d'établir prochainement les relations régulières entre leurs délégués près des Tribunaux Correctionnels et Criminels et les nouveaux agents judiciaires, les Procureurs et les Inspecteurs Impériaux.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 548.)

Therapia, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of three statements in Turkish complaining of ill-treatment by the Bulgarians, sent by Mussulmans in the district of Rustchuck to Mr. Dillon, an English gentleman, who has already conveyed similar documents to me. I shall send copies of these to Mr. Lascelles, as he may be able to verify the facts referred to in them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Deposition of the Wife of Ahmed, of the Village of Sulihler.

CINQ semaines à peu près de cela, un Samedi, mon mari, Ahmed, était allé au village de Kassimlar, distant d'une heure et demie du nôtre pour recevoir quelque "cabrasi" du blé qu'on lui devait. Nous avions appris que l'officier central y résidant l'avait fait mettre en prison. Mardi, le quatrième jour, le nommé Kenardje Mehmed, zaptié de Kassimlar, est

venu à notre village disant que le capitaine des zaptiés de Kassimlar avait à m'interroger, a voulu m'y amener. Je lui ai répondu que je ne pouvais pas y aller seule. Ensuite, avec mon frère Iliass, il nous a amené à Kassilar, où nous sommes arrivés vers 1 heure et demie de la nuit; mais sans nous amener devant l'autorité il nous a conduit dans la chambre d'Eyoub, où il demeurait. Là il a dit à mon frère Iliass: "Va te coucher dans une chambre que tu pourras trouver dans le village et moi j'enverrai coucher ta sœur dans le harem de mon propriétaire." Après le départ de mon frère Iliass, ce zaptié, Kenardje Mehmed, m'a poussée dans sa chambre, où il m'a dit qu'il me voulait, et m'a demandé si je voulais être à lui. Je lui ai répondu que j'étais contente de mon mari, et c'est pour me faire une proposition pareille qu'il m'avait conduite ici. A peine j'avais fini ces paroles qu'un officier de zaptié à barbe noire peu fournie, la taille haute, et portant des épaulettes d'or, est entré et m'a dit: "Tu seras envoyée en exile; ce zaptié Mehmed te désire; si tu consens à être avec lui tu seras sauvée." Lorsque j'ai commencé à pleurer en disant que je ne voulais pas de lui, le dit zaptié Mehmed est parti en fermant la porte sur nous. Il était alors à peu près 3 heures de la nuit. Tout à coup cet officier est tombé sur moi, et en me donnant des coups de poing et me faisant mille tortures, m'a violé. Ensuite, au moment où il s'en allait, un autre officier, haute de taille, à la barbe chataigne, n'ayant pas des épaulettes, est entré et a fait la même brutalité, et après cet officier le susdit zaptié, Mehmed, est rentré et lui aussi a exécuté la même brutalité, et ensuite il m'a envoyé dans le haremlik de son propriétaire. Là j'ai passé la nuit. Le lendemain, Mercredi, de bon matin, ce zaptié, Mehmed, est revenu et m'a dit qu'il allait me conduire à l'autorité; mais dans cette journée il n'est venu, seulement la nuit au moment de la prière, étant revenu à la porte du haremlik, il m'a appellé et m'a dit; "Allons, mon maître t'appelle." Je lui ai répondu que je ne pouvais pas aller la nuit, mais il m'a pris par les bras, et me donnant des coups, il m'a amenée dans la même chambre où il m'avait déjà conduit la veille, en me disant: "ne souffle pas un mot ou je te tuerai." Immédiatement les mêmes officiers un à un sont entrés et ont exécuté les mêmes brutalités, et lorsqu'ils sont partis le dit zaptié, Mehmed, est venu me prendre pour me conduire dans le haremlik, où j'ai passé encore la nuit. Le lendemain, Jeudi, de bon matin, le dit zaptié, Mehmed, est revenu et m'a dit; "Allons, on te demande au Merkez," mais sans m'y conduire il m'a amené dans la maison où mon frère avait passé la nuit à notre arrivée à Kassimlar.

Ce jour-là il y avait des femmes de notre village. J'ai monté dans leur voiture et je suis tombée malade pendant dix-huit jours du chagrin et des brutalités de ces hommes que j'ai subi et dont je viens de raconter les détails.

Je réclame donc justice contre leurs actes barbares qui atteignent également l'honneur de l'autorité, lequel ne peut pas accepter qu'on la foule ainsi aux pieds, et je demande, je supplie, qu'ils soient punis selon la loi.

Le 30 Avril, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Ill-treatment of Mussulmans of Bulgaria.

IL y a un mois de cela quelques individus sont entrés la nuit dans la maison de Necoud Ahmed Oglou, du village de Chochetdji, Caza de Tirnova, et, en brûlant ses mains et ses pieds par un fer chaud, lui ont pris son argent. Le Moukhtar Bulgare du village ayant attrapé deux de ces individus, et les ayant envoyés à Tirnova sans qu'ils subissent aucune peine, on ne sait pourquoi ils sont revenus à leur village.

Un certain nombre d'individus sont venus la nuit au village d'Oedjilar, Caza de Tirnova, ont enfoncé la porte de Nizam Oglou Ahmed, lui ont pris tout son argent, et l'ont tellement battu et maltraité que huit jours plus tard le dit Ahmed est mort des suites des coups.

La maison d'un Musulman du Village d'Arnavoudly, du Caza de Tirnova, a été assaillie la nuit; 2,500 piastres, provenant de la vente d'une maison qu'il avait effectué deux jours avant, lui ont été enlevées, et lui-même très-mal traité; mais il n'en est pas mort.

La maison de Hafib Oglou Ahmed, du village de Codja Penar, Caza de Rasgrad, a été assaillie la nuit; le dit Ahmed et sa femme ayant subis des tortures atroces; il leur a été pris 100 piastres qu'il possédaient.

Les Musulmans du village Beyan Irbifka, Caza de Roustchouk, se trouvaient une heure loin de leur village en route pour venir à Roustchouk avec leurs femmes et leurs enfants. Des Bulgares armés les ayant croisés, leur donnent des coups de bâton, et prennent de Kendjak Oglou Mustafa 500 piastres, et de Ibrahim 560 piastres, après les avoir bien battus.

Certain nombre d'individus armés entrent la nuit dans la maison de Suleiman, du village de Keshpenar (Caza de Roustchouk); ils blessent avec le couteau le dit Suleiman et sa femme et leur enlèvent une somme de 1,700 piastres.

Dix individus armés étant venus chez Courd Oglou Hadji Ismaïl la nuit et l'ayant battu très-fortement, le susdit Ismaïl n'est pas encore mort des suites.

Deux Bulgares à cheval du village de Djélélin Yenidjessi étant venus à Nasseloa après être restés dans un cabaret un certain temps, remontent à cheval, et, étant arrivés près des femmes Musulmanes qui étaient en train de ramasser de la paille aux environs du village, l'un descend du cheval, le laisse à son camarade, et attrape une de ces femmes, la viole, et remonte son cheval, et s'en vont. La dite femme se trouvant être enceinte, la frayeur et l'outrage barbare qu'elle avait subi la rende tellement malade qu'elle est encore alitée.

Inclosure 3 in No. 140.

Ill-treatment of Mussulmans of Bulgaria.

DANS la nuit de 19 Février dernier le Moukhtar Hussein, du village Djelnévy, Caza de Roustchouk, se trouvait dans sa chambre, en compagnie de quatre à cinq vieux Musulmans du village. Vers 2 heures et demie à la Turque un des zaptiés de Roustchouk, appellé Cara Dably, ayant avec lui un autre zaptié et plusieurs Bulgares du village, est venu devant la porte de la dite chambre, les Bulgares se tenant hors de la porte; lui avec son camarade entre là dedans, et en disant, "Pourquoi la nuit vous restez ici?" et commence à injurier et battre avec le fourreau de son sabre. Les Musulmans commencent à le prier en disant de ne pas les battre inutilement; de ne pas leur faire du mal, et en disant que c'était l'usage de rester jusqu'à 3 heures pour attendre les ordres qui pourraient venir de l'autorité; que chaque nuit jusqu'à l'heure dite ils devaient se tenir à sa disposition, et voyant les Bulgares qui regardaient par la porte ils s'adressent à eux en disant, "Voisins, ne nous faites pas faire du mal et ayez pitié de nous," et là-dessus les dits zaptiés s'en vont. Le lendemain matin le Moukhtar Hussein Aga, avec les vieux du soir, se trouvait dans la même chambre se demandant quelle serait leur situation et l'état dans lequel ils se trouvent, le dit zaptié, avec le Moukhtar Bulgare du village et le maître d'école, ainsi que huit à dix Bulgares, entrent dans la chambre où le maître d'école écrit quelque chose sur un papier. Le dit Cara Dably, zaptié, s'adressant au Moukhtar Hussein Aga, dit, "Hier soir, ici, ces Turcs ont cherché à me lier et ont touché à mon sabre, et m'ont arraché mes épaulettes; toutes ces choses sont écrites sur ce papier; tu vas y mettre ton cachet." Le Moukhtar répond ces choses-là ne se sont pas passées. Aga ayez pitié et refuse de mettre son cachet, et le zaptié et les autres se retirent. Là-dessus le Moukhtar avec les dits vieux et plusieurs autres Musulmans, une vingtaine environ, vont à Biéla, distant de trois à quatre heures du village, où ils expliquent et racontent tout ce qui s'est passé au Thavouche des zaptiés; immédiatement le susdit Cara Dably, zaptié, avec son camarade, y arrivent et causent en particulier avec le Thavouche; ensuite les hommes qui ne s'étaient pas trouvé la nuit dans la chambre du Moukhtar sont maltraités sans aucune observation et renvoyés par le Thavouche et le Moukhtar sont qui s'étaient trouvés la nuit dans la chambre sont emprisonnés dans une chambre. Vers 3 heures de la nuit le Thavouche les fait sortir et leur dit: "Je veux que vous me livriez neuf individus du Comité qui se trouvent parmi vous," et les battant un à un avec sa cravache il les remet de nouveau en prison. Vers 6 heures de la nuit il les fait sortir de nouveau et cette fois les fait coucher et lui d'un côté et les autres d'un autre côté, avec des gros bâtons commencent à les battre; surtout le Moukhtar est mis presque à mort pour lui faire mettre son cachet sur le papier écrit par le maître d'école déjà mentionné et qu'il exécute sous les coups de bâton. Le lendemain le Moukhtar et ses compagnons, liés et envoyés à Roustchouk, où ces pauvres hommes étant reconnus par l'autorité innocents, sont renvoyés à leur village; mais ces malheureux se trouvent aujourd'hui souffrants des suites des coups qu'ils ont reçu.

Dernièrement pour le Tribunal Ordinaire cinq membres Musulmans qui avaient été élus, lors de leur assermentation il leur a été communiqué officiellement qu'ils commenceraient leur bésogne le 1er Avril, mais jusqu'aujourd'hui ces membres n'ont reçu aucune invitation pour s'y rendre.

Ce 6 Avril, la nuit du Dimanche, vers 4 heures à la Turque, vingt-cinq brigands armés sont venus à Bechepenar, village du Caza de Roustchouk, où tous les habitants sont Musulmans; ils rencontrent quelques habitants qui faisaient la patrouille, les prennent et leur demandent de montrer la maison de Cara Mahmoud Oglou Suleyman, et arrivée devant la maison de Suleyman ils mettent de côté la patrouille et l'un d'eux va devant

la fenêtre et crie: "Suleyman Aga, un gendarme est venu chez le Moukhtar; il te demande;" et lorsque Suleyman s'est montré hors de sa maison ils le prend, le dépouille, ne laissant sur lui que son caleçon, et en lui liant les mains derrière lui demande son argent, et Suleyman répond que tout l'argent qu'il possédait il l'avait prêté à l'un et à l'autre; par conséquent, il n'avait pas une piastre chez lui; mais une partie des brigands était entrée dans la maison, et fouillait les malles et tous les coins; ils prennent 600 piastres qu'ils découvrent dans un sac, et pour en trouver d'autres ils commencent à torturer le dit Suleyman en lui brûlant ses épaules et lui piquant ses mollets avec des couteaux; ensuite ils amènent avec eux ceux qui faisaient la patrouille et à un quart d'heure du village dans les broussailles les laissent les mains et les pieds liés et se dirigent vers le village de Bicla. Les hommes de la patrouille se délient les uns les autres, et rentrent au village. Ces brigands parlaient le Turc, mais à leur accent on reconnaissait que c'étaient des Bulgares. Leurs vêtements étaient comme ceux des Bulgares Bachi-Bazouks en Aba tissé par eux-mêmes.

Ce 26 Mars dernier Hafez Hadja Oglou Tahir et Papourly Omer, du village de Bezen Verbefka, Caza de Roustchouk, avec leurs femmes, et leurs effets sur leur chariot, en compagnie des nommés Kuthuk Oglou Moustafa et Thaker Ibrahim et Moustine, qui étaient à pied, allaient ensemble à Roustchouk de la forêt; près de la route sortent huit individus habillés comme les Bulgares, et parlant le Turc, courent sur eux, mais le nommé Moustine seul s'échappe; sur les deux autres ces brigands tirent des coups de fusils, les attrapent et les dépouillent, après leur avoir pris 1,000 piastres en carbon qu'ils possédaient ils vont vers les chariots des femmes, ils prennent tous les effets et 600 piastres en or de 20 piastres rangés comme un collier. Pour quant à Omer, après avoir fouillé sa femme et n'ayant rien trouvé et ses effets ne leur ayant pas parus valoir quelque chose, sans lui rien prendre retournent dans la forêt d'où ils étaient sortis.

Il y a vingt jours de cela la maison de Hadji Ahmed, du village de Yéni Seybanlar, Caza de Rasgrad, a été assaillie la nuit par des brigands parlant le Turc et habillés comme les Turcs. Ils ont torturé le dit Ahmed et sa femme en exposant leurs têtes près du feu et leur faisant des tortures insupportables; ils ont pris leurs effets et leur argent, montant à une somme de 14,000 piastres, et se sont retirés. A la suite de cette torture, et le mauvais traitement, le dit Ahmed et sa femme se trouvent malades.

Encore à la même date, un Vendredi, à cinq heures distant du Caza de Rasgrad, le village de Clitch, dont les habitants sont tous Musulmans, a été assailli par de nombreux brigands, qui ont fait subir à tous les habitants des tortures inouïes, et leur ayant pris une somme de £ T. 300, se sont retirés.

Le Mardi soir, du 18 Mars, vingt-cinq à trente brigands à pied armés sont entrés dans le village de Bosnia, Caza de Silistrie, et ont assaillie la maison de Hadji Molla Ahmed, et celle de son gendre Hussein Aga, ainsi que celle de son voison Ahmed Aga. Après avoir torturé ces hommes, et leurs femmes, ils ont pris de Molla Ahmed 30 polés, ainsi qu'un collier de quatre rangés de pièces d'or composé de roubiés et mahmoudiés et d'autres pièces; de Hussein Aga 3,500 piastres et de Ahmed Aga outre une certaine somme d'argent ils ont pris de chez ces trois hommes des habits d'hommes et de femmes ainsi que des coffres et autres objets de maison qu'il leur ont plu et sont partis du village en tirant en l'air des coups de fusils.

Dans la nuit de 13 Mars dernier de nombreux brigands ont assailli Cara Mehmedler, village tout-à-fait Musulman, près de Roustchouk; ils ont dévalisé les habitants et pendant cette nuit le Naïb *ad intérim* du nahié, Hafez Emin Effendi, se trouvait comme visiteur dans une chambre du dit village a été également dévalisé; on lui a enlevé sa montre, ses habits, et tous ses effets, avec une somme de 426 piastres et 30 paras appartenant au Tribunal de Cherie, comme recette du dit mois, et ainsi que son argent, le tout montant à 1,000 piastres, et ont quitté le village.

Dans la journée de Mardi, le 1er Avril, vers 5 heures à la Turque, tout près du Conak de l'autorité de Roustchouk, et sur la plus grande et plus fréquentée rue, dans un des magasins sous le Consulat de Russie se tenait le changeur Juif, fils de Istambouilli Oglou Rosaui.

Sous prétexte de faire changer des monnaies trois individus en chapeau habillés à la Franque entrent dans le magasin, et au moment où le changeur ouvrant son coffre-fort prenait de l'argent, ces trois individus tombent sur lui et avec leurs couteaux et "canna" qu'ils cachaient, lui enfoncent dans le cou à plusieurs endroits, et ne pouvant enlever l'argent qu'il y avait dans la caisse ils se contentent d'emporter 200 carbons environ. La blessure du dit changeur est très-grave. D'après l'autorité l'un des assassins serait Autrichien et les deux autres Serbes ou Monténégrins.

Le nommé Giorgui, zaptié, envoyé dans le caza pour la poursuite des brigands avec vingt-cinq soldats Boutra Bulgares le 29 Mars dernier, Samedi, sont arrivés au village

Musulman Yurukler, distant de sept à huit heures de Roustchouk, et descendu dans une maison voisine de celle d'un des Notables du village Solak Oglou Hassan. Ce même jour le dit zaptié Guorgui voulant se rendre à l'autre côté du village, au lieu de passer par la rue, entre dans le haremlik de Hassan et sort par une autre porte donnant à l'autre rue; immédiatement après lui trois autres Bulgares Botra tenant leurs chevaux traversent la cour du haremlik et à ce moment le maître de la maison, Hassan, leur dit; "Djanim, vous savez qu'ici est la cour du haremlik et qu'on ne passe pas; ce n'est pas l'habitude et chez nous c'est sacré; je vous prie de ne plus traverser;" là-dessus le dit zaptié Guorgui revient et entre dans la cour, et après l'avoir injurié de toutes les façons et ayant cravaché en même temps le train en le battant jusqu'à la chambre du Moukhtar. Le frère aîné de Hassan, le nommé Osman, ainsi que les vieux du village, Daiy Oglou Halil, Fazly Oglou Bekir, Tatar Oglou Abdul Aziz, et Salih Oglou Ahmed arrivent, et ayant su que Hassan n'avait commis aucune infraction, supplient le dit Guorgui de le lâcher; mais leur prière n'étant pas exaucée, au contraire, le dit zaptié leur répond qu'ils auront à répondre sur différentes choses, il conduit Hassan et Osman ainsi que les vieux du village escortés par ses soldats Botra à l'autorité centrale située au village Lodjovd, où ils arrivent vers 4 heures à la Turque de la nuit. Après les avoir mis dans une chambre le dit zaptié Guorgui, avec un autre de l'endroit dont le nom nous est inconnu, y entrent et commencent d'abord avec la crosse de leur fusil et avec les pieds, battre les vieux en les injuriant. Ceux-ci commencent à prier, à supplier, en disant: "Osman Aga, nous ne connaissons pas notre tort; ayez pitié de nous, demandez, interrogez, si nous avons eu tort; si nous sommes coupables faites alors ce que vous voudrez." Mais sans les écouter ils continuent à les battre. Quant à Hassan et à son frère Osman, il les fait coucher par ses Bulgares, et avec des bâtons et la crosse du fusil il les battent à deux reprises, en se reposant deux ou trois fois. Le lendemain, Dimanche, il déshabille Osman en ne lui laissant que son caleçon, le bat avec sa cravache pendant quelque temps, et ayant injurié longtemps les vieux ils les renvoient en disant: "Allez maintenant, retournez à votre village." Pendant cinq jours, jusqu'à Jeudi, il retient Hassan et Osman en prison; le lendemain, Vendredi, comme ils étaient devenus malades, il les fait mettre dans un chariot pour les conduire à Roustchouk. En route ils passent la nuit à Thervenavoda. Le lendemain, Samedi, ils arrivent à Roustchouk où on les emprisonne au Département de Caïmacamlic. Le lendemain, Dimanche, l'état d'Osman s'étant aggravé on l'envoie à l'hôpital, et à peine une heure ne s'était passée que le pauvre malheureux était mort des suites des coups qu'il avait reçu. Là-dessus on fait sortir du prison son frère Hassan, et on le lâche sans rien lui dire. Ce malheureux aussi depuis crache du sang. Tous ces détails nous a été donné par lui et par tous les témoins.

Lundi, le 31me jour de Mars, vers 8 heures à la Turque, à Casseliovo, village du Caza de Roustchouk, la femme de Pehlevanen Ahmed, nommé Sebilé Hatoun, et la fille de son voisin, Osman, âgée de 16 ans, nommée Fatma, et une autre, Fatma, la fille du Daredji Ali, âgée de 15 ans, étaient en train de ramasser une certaine herbe appelée lopucha. Deux Bulgares, âgés de 30 ans environ, du village de Djélilen Yeni-keui, appartenant au Caza de Rasgrad, venaient sur elles. En les voyant venir elles commencent à se sauver; ils les poursuivent et ne peuvent attraper les filles, mais ils parviennent à attraper la femme, et l'un d'eux la viole de force et ensuite ils se sauvent à leur village. Les filles en arrivant au village, et ensuite la femme, préviennent le Thavouche de Ladjova Kiro, qui s'y trouvait, et les Mouktars Musulmans et Bulgares, ainsi que les vieux du village. Pour amener les deux Bulgares qui avaient commis cette abomination le Thavouche et le Bulgare, Mouktar, et d'autres vieux Bulgares du village, avaient été envoyés à Yeni-keui; mais les villageois dudit village ne veulent pas leur remettre ces deux Bulgares. Deux heures après leur retour les deux Bulgares en question sont envoyés à Casseliovo avec plusieurs Bulgares de leur village et cachés dans la maison d'un Bulgare, mais Kiro Thavouche et les Mouktars ayant eu connaissance, ils y envoient un zaptié de leur part. L'un d'eux s'était déjà sauvé, le zaptié ayant amené l'autre. Le Thavouche le met à côté de plusieurs autres Bulgares et demande à la femme si elle reconnaît l'individu qui l'a violée. Après un examen court: "Celui qui m'a outragée le voilà. C'est cet ennemi jeune," dit-elle, en montrant le Bulgare amené par le zaptié. Là-dessus le dit Thavouche envoie ce Bulgare à Roustchouk en prison, mais la femme, à la suite de cet outrage et des coups qu'elle avait reçus, tombe malade et son état de jour en jour s'empire.

Mardi, le 9 Avril, les nommés Youssouf Oglou Hadji Hassan, âgé de 60 ans environ, et Redjeb Oglou Rachid, âgé de 35 ans, du village d'Arnavaud-Keui, appartenait au Caza de Tirnova, limitrophe à celui de Roustchouk, dans deux voitures à louage avec leur familles et leurs effets se rendaient à Roustchouk. Ce jour même en arrivant à l'endroit dit Keur Thechmé, distant de deux heures de Rustchouk, deux zaptiés Bulgares à cheval venant de Roustchouk arrivent près d'eux et leur demande d'où ils viennent et où ils vont. Ceux-ci répondent qu'ils vont à Roustchouk pour émigrer à Constantinople A cette réponse

les zaptiés commencent à injurier leur foi, leur religion, et leur race, et celui qui avait la moustache blonde commence à frapper Hadji Hassan en disant: Pourquoi vous ne dites pas la vérité?" Le malheureux Hassan en disant "Aman!" Aga les supplie de le laisser et commence à courir, et l'autre le poursuivant frappe chaque fois qu'il l'atteint, et à la fin il tire son sabre et le blesse à la tête. Ensuite, sous prétexte de chercher des armes et des munitions il fait décharger les voitures, et ne trouvant rien les fait recharger et conduit tous à Pergas, trois heures distant de Roustchouk, où réside un capitaine; là, ayant déposées toutes les voitures chez l'Imam, on enferme Hadji Hassa dans une écurie. Le lendemain, Mercredi, l'officier dit à Rachid et aux femmes d'aller avec les voitures à Roustchouk, et une heure après leur départ il envoie Hadji Hassan et le zaptié à Roustchouk, où on le met dans un dortoire de zaptiés; là un zaptié chaque fois qu'il passait près de lui l'injuriait et lui donnait un coup de pied ou un coup de cravache. Deux heures plus tard Hadji Hassan et le zaptié qui l'avait battu en route sont appelés au Medjliss, où le dit zaptié répond à tort et à travers aux questions qu'on lui adresse, tandis que Hadji Hassan raconte tout ce qui s'est passé, en donnant tous les détails et toutes les tortures qu'on lui a fait subir. Là-dessus on fait examiner Hassan par un médécin; on lui fait mettre de l'onguent sur ses blessures et on le laisse aller. Toute cette affaire nous a été racontée par Hadji Hassan, lui-même; plus tard on nous a dit que le susdit zaptié avait été chassé par le Medjliss, ce que nous n'avons pas pu constater.

Le 11 Avril, 1880.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 549.) *Therapia, May 27*, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 330 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to state that before its receipt I had already made representations to the Sublime Porte respecting the treatment of Christians in the district of Ipek.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 550.) *Constantinople, May 27*, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, together with a translation of a petition which he forwarded to me in the above-mentioned despatch from the Mussulmans of Aetos, near Bourgas, complaining of the bad treatment that they experience at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, May 6, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 29th April Ahmet Shukir Effendi, a native of the town of Aidos, in this Department, now in the service of the Austrian Government in Bosnia and travelling with an Austrian passport, was stopped as he was leaving Aidos by the Commissary of Police and the Postmaster, who inquired whether he had any letters for the post at Bourgas, as it was forbidden to carry them.

On his replying in the negative, they insisted on searching his person, and took from his pocket, by force, an open document in Turkish, signed by fifty-three Mussulmans of the town of Aidos, and addressed to the Government of Europe ("Evropanin Devlet-lerinah").

This paper, which sets forth the grievances of the Mussulmans and the constant [word

omitted] suffered by them at the hands of the Bulgars, as well as the inutility of their attempts to obtain redress or protection from the Local Government, was destined to be delivered to the Austrian Vice-Consul and myself for transmission to your Excellency and the Austrian Ambassador.

Chevalier von Adelberg, on being informed of the facts by Ahmet Effendi, addressed a note to the authorities here requiring the restitution of the papers, and receiving no answer, has reported the circumstances to the Austrian Embassy, and complained of the forcible and illegal seizure made by the officers of the Aidos canton on a person under Austrian protection.

The object of this arbitrary act was, of course, the suppression of a statement containing grave accusations against the authorities, but the attempt has scarcely been successful, as I have been able to procure copies of an identic petition intended for the Sublime Porte, one of which I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency.

The Consuls of France and Austria will also forward copies to their respective Embassies.

It is, however, probable, that the persons who have signed and to whom even the right of complaint is denied, will be punished for their audacity in venturing to make known their wrongs, and I am informed that the authorities here are consulting as to the advisability of accusing them of something like high treason.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Petition from Mussulmans of Aetos, Bourgas.

LES Soussignés, habitants d'Aetos, district du Département de Bourgas, demandons pardon pour venir vous importuner avec cette notre humble pétition que nous vous prions de vouloir bien prendre en considération pour voir les atrocités et les méfaits que les Bulgares commettent sur nos personnes.

Nous entrons en matière pour dire tout d'abord que cette province est une création du Traité de Berlin qui l'a placée sous l'autorité du Sultan. Nous croyons savoir aussi que les Musulmans qui, lors de la dernière guerre se virent forcés de s'expatrier, pouvaient, aux termes de ce même Traité, rentrer chez eux, pour prendre possession de leurs biens, gagner leur pain en travaillant, vivre en frères avec leurs compatriotes Chrétiens et s'occuper chacun, dans la mesure de ses forces, à développer les ressources du pays. Malheureusement, nous, Musulmans, nous avons été cruellement trompés dans nos espérances, et voici pourquoi.

Il y a huit mois depuis que nous sommes chez nous. Nos compatriotes Bulgares qui, à notre arrivée, nous avaient très-mal reçus, ne cessèrent tout le temps à nous agacer, à nous insulter, à nous maltraiter, et à nous faire endurer toute espèce de maux. S'étant emparés de nos biens, ils nous ont obligés à demeurer pêle-mêle dans de sales trous; ils ont encore fait de plus, ils nous ont enlevé de force notre argent et nous ont pris les seneds qui constituent les titres de nos propriétés. Voulant nous séparer du reste de nos compatriotes, ils ont empêché des Chrétiens bienveillants de nous venir en aide ou de nous donner n'importe quelle assistance. Il y a de ces Chrétiens qui ont été maltraités pour leurs relations qu'ils ont voulu nouer avec nous.

Mais oublions le passé qui n'est rien en comparaison avec les atrocités récentes qu'ils ont commises et dont nous avons été les victimes innocentes. Voici d'ailleurs des détails circonstanciés.

Sous le prétexte qu'il y avait des insurgés aux Balkans, les Bulgares de notre district s'armèrent pour aller leur donner la chasse. Des médecins, des ingénieurs, et les miliciens du district avaient été appelés à prendre part à cette expédition volontaire. Cette armée ainsi improvisée alla droit au village Bayram Allan qu'elle détruisit en faisant table rase de toutes les habitations. Il vint ensuite le tour du village de Hejeldjak dont les habitants étaient accusés par leurs voisins Bulgares d'avoir des intelligences avec les insurgés. Ici les miliciens, après avoir enlevé grand nombre d'objets, ont tué Deli Moustafa. Treize autres Bulgares ont pris à Ali Effendi Hoteb la somme de 45,000 piastres ainsi qu'une grande quantité d'effets. Avec ses biens qu'ils lui ont volés, ils le maltraitèrent encore de la manière la plus cruelle. Deux de ses scélérats sont de Keupru-keny; les autres, de Sevitchli, localités sises dans le district de Messemvria. Tous ces malfaiteurs, sur le compte desquels il ne reste le moindre doute, vont être relâchés, tout comme s'il n'y avait rien à leur reprocher. Que nous avons lieu de

regretter l'éloignement d'Iconomos Effendi, ex-Gouverneur de notre district! Pendant son administration, nous jouissions d'une parfaite tranquillité; nous circulions librement d'un village à un autre; nous n'étions point molestés dans nos mouvements et dans nos occupations, et l'on ne parlait point d'insurgés dans notre district. Malheureusement on releva de ses fonctions ce fonctionnaire honnête et intelligent et on lui donna pour successeur un Gouverneur Bulgare.

Avec ce changement les choses ont pris tout une autre tournure. Ainsi des malfaiteurs ayant pénétré au village Redjib Mehalessi, ont assassiné avec Moussa et Deli Hassan, gendarmes de la localité, un simple particulier et une vieille femme. Ils s'en retirèrent après avoir détruit, en y mettant le feu, un dépôt de céréales, deux maisons, un grenier, et après avoir volé et enlevé un grand nombre d'objets aux habitants. Il en a été de même pour Kemkhar et Nadir, c'est-à-dire même assassinats, mêmes vols, et mêmes rapines. Tous ces actes de scélératesse ont été couverts du voile du pardon. Rien n'a été dit ou fait pour venger ceux qui en ont été les victimes.

Tout dernièrement le Gouverneur sortit pour faire un tour dans ce district. Les gens dont il était accompagné ont dévalisé et pillé tous les villages par où ils ont passé: à Kezeldjik, ils ont blessé mortellement deux personnes, ont volé 6,000 piastres à Hadji Hassan et enlevé plusieurs objets de ménage.

Bref, nous sommes journellement victimes de vols, d'assassinats, et de toute espèce d'avanies. Avant la guerre Actos avait 700 maisons. Il n'en reste aujourd'hui que 200 partagées par 400 familles de Moustafa Pasha, 200 familles Chrétiennes d'Actos, et de 200 à 300 familles Musulmanes.

Au mois de Mars dernier nous nous présentâmes à l'autorité pour prendre avec son assistance possession de nos propriétés. Elle nous a déboutés de notre demande. Ce déni de justice a encouragé les Bulgares. Aussi leur entend-on dire sans cesse qu'ici on est en Bulgarie et nullement en Turquie. Les Bulgares ne laissent passer de jour sans nous tracasser.

A peine la nuit survenue, ils nous forcent de rentrer et de nous enfermer chez nous. Eux se promènent par les rues jusqu'au matin, tirant des coups de feu, folâtrant, s'amusant, et se divertissant de toutes manières. Leur politique est de nous chasser de notre pays. Ils disent que nous ne devons pas attendre la moindre protection de la part des Puissances Chrétiennes. Nous ayant empêchés d'ensemencer nos champs, nous ne savons pas ce que nous deviendrons pendant la saison de l'hiver prochain.

Au moment que nous écrivons cette pétition, Hassan Effendi, fils de Redjeb, rentre chez lui criblé de coups de balle. L'autorité que nous avons informée de ce malheur ne semble pas vouloir s'en inquiéter. Pour finir avec nos lamentations permettez-nous, bien-veillant Monsieur, de vous dire que notre état est déplorable, et qu'aux yeux des Bulgares nous sommes quelque chose moins que des parias. Armés comme ils sont, ils ne cessent de nous traquer juste comme on fait pour des bêtes sauvages. Jusqu'à quand souffrirons-nous tous ces maux dont cette classe par trop privilégiée ne cesse de nous accabler? Ayez la bonté d'intervenir pour y mettre fin.

En attendant qu'il vous plaise d'agir, veuillez nous croire, &c.

(Suivent 54 signatures.)

Le 16 Avril 1880.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 556.) *Therapia, May* 20, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Sultan invited me to-day to Yildiz Kiosk. His Majesty was good enough to express to me anew his regret at my departure, and to observe that he not only looked upon me in the light of a personal friend, for whom he had very great regard, but that he would never forget the services that I had rendered to him and to his Empire. It was principally owing to me, His Majesty said, that he was now on the throne. If it had not been for me his fleet would have been given up to Russia, and Buyukdéré would have been occupied by Russian troops. It was only with my support, and acting upon my advice, that he was able to resist the demands of Russia on these two points. All his then Ministers and advisers urged him to yield, and had he done so his capital would have fallen.

I replied that, although I might have been of some service to His Majesty on the occasions to which he had referred, I was bound on the other hand to say that it was entirely owing to the firmness and patriotism displayed by His Majesty when every one

else was seized with a panic and was prepared to surrender his capital, that the fleet had not been given up, and Buyukdéré occupied.

His Majesty added that before taking leave of me he wished again to express to Lady Layard and myself his gratitude, and that of his Mussulman subjects, for all that we had done for them. They would cherish the remembrance that, when all the world had turned against them, and they were being subjected to the most cruel ill-treatment, I had done my best to obtain justice and protection for them, and that with Lady Layard I had come to the relief of those who had been driven out of their homes and were dying of want.

I answered His Majesty that in acting as I had done I had only discharged my duty, and had obeyed the dictates of humanity and justice. I assured His Majesty that he would find the same desire to deal justly and humanely with the Mahommedan population in Her Majesty's present Government, and that I had the greatest satisfaction in informing His Majesty that Mr. Goschen would certainly make no distinction between Mussulmans and Christians, but that he would use all his efforts to promote the welfare of and to ensure justice and protection to all classes of His Majesty's subjects. That such was also the intention of Her Majesty's Government the answer which Mr. Gladstone had recently given to a question in the House of Commons with reference to the treatment of the Mussulman population in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, would furnish ample proof.

His Majesty remarked that he had seen Mr. Gladstone's statement with very sincere pleasure, and he earnestly hoped that the shocking persecution and injustice to which the Mussulmans in those provinces were being exposed would soon cease.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 560.) *Therapia, June* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Sultan invited Lady Layard and myself to be present yesterday at the annual examination of his children and nephews. They showed considerable proficiency, for their age, in Turkish, Arabic, and French. His Majesty took great interest in the proceedings. We afterwards had the honour of dining with His Majesty. After dinner I had a long conversation with His Majesty on matters pending between the Embassy and the Porte, and I availed myself of the opportunity to call, for the last time, his serious attention to the manner in which his Ministers had of late conducted public affairs, especially with respect to his foreign relations. I said that I did not complain so much of the delays in transacting business as of the signal bad faith which had been shown by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which had led to a complete distrust of him on the part of myself and of my colleagues. I instanced several proofs of it, and ventured to tell His Majesty that if it had not been for this absence of good faith on the part of his Ministers most of the serious questions which now existed between his Government and other Powers would have been long ago satisfactorily settled, and Turkey would not have found herself in many of her present difficulties.

His Majesty declared that the instances which I had brought to his notice had not come to his knowledge. He promised me that he would ask for explanations with regard to them, and direct that they should be brought to a speedy termination. His Majesty deplored his fate in having no Minister like Reshid Pasha and others in the service of his father, Abdul Medjid, in whom he could place trust and confidence.

Amongst the matters which I mentioned to His Majesty as being unsettled was that of his Iradé sanctioning the Convention between Her Majesty's Government and the Khedive with regard to the Somali Coast. His Majesty's reply led me to believe that he does not intend to issue it. I am informed that His Majesty has been induced to withhold it by the anti-English party in the Palace, who have represented to him that Egypt is already virtually an English province, and that any territorial addition to it would only be an advantage to England, and would further deprive him of territory.

I was surprised to find that, although Savas Pasha had informed Dragoman Preziosi on Saturday last that he would on that day make the formal application to the Sultan to name an early day for the reception of Mr. Goschen, no such application had been made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 561.) *Therapia, June 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity, when dining with the Sultan yesterday, to speak to His Majesty about the Protestant Constitution. I reminded His Majesty that he had himself informed me that he had issued his Iradé for that Constitution, which would, he understood, meet my wishes in every respect, and that he had subsequently sent one of his Aides-de-camp to me to confirm what he had stated to me personally. I was, therefore, greatly surprised to find that a deception had been practised upon His Majesty, and that he had been induced to give his Imperial sanction to a Constitution which had already been rejected by the heads of the Protestant community and myself, as not granting to the Protestants the rights and privileges to which they were entitled, and which were enjoyed by other Christian communities in the Turkish Empire.

I observed to His Majesty that the two great Protestant Powers of Europe, England and Germany, took a great interest in the Protestants of Turkey, and that they could not, with indifference, see them placed upon a footing of inferiority to the other Christian communities in the Empire. I was convinced, I added, that His Majesty had no desire that they should be, and I therefore confidently hoped that His Majesty would direct his Ministers to accept the draft Constitution for them which had been prepared by their Vakil, with my concurrence, and which I was about to submit to the Porte.

His Majesty replied that nothing was further from his thoughts than to show any disrespect to the two great Protestant Powers, his allies, by placing his Protestant subjects in an inferior position, and that he was ignorant of the facts that I had brought to his notice, but that he would at once give orders that the Protestant Constitution, which I had communicated to the Porte, together with my note on the subject, should be sent to him. His Majesty added that he had been informed that, after the new "Règlements" under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin had been introduced into the provinces, all religious communities would be placed upon precisely the same footing, and that, consequently, special Constitutions for them would in future be unnecessary.

I pointed out to His Majesty that so long as other Christian communities had special Firmans, such as had recently been given by His Majesty to Monsigneur Hassoun on the demand of the French Embassy, the Protestants had an equal right to one, and that without one they could not transact in a satisfactory manner their affairs as a community with the Porte.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 146.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 563.) *Constantinople, June 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte, submitting for approval a draft of the proposed Protestant Constitution which has been the subject of such frequent communication between myself and the Sultan's Government for the last two years.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Sir A. H. Layard to Saeas Pasha.

Therapia, May 28, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

YOUR Excellency is well aware that for more than two years I have been engaged in negotiations with the Sublime Porte, acting under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, with reference to the Constitution to be accorded to the Protestant subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. His Imperial Majesty himself has been graciously pleased to inform me that it is his desire that they should be placed on precisely the same footing, and enjoy the same rights and privileges as the other Christian communities in his dominions. On a recent occasion His Imperial Majesty was good enough to state to me that he had issued the Imperial Iradé for a Protestant Constitution that would entirely meet my wishes and those of my Government in this respect. Unfortunately, I have reason to believe that the Constitution that has been submitted by the Sublime Porte to His Majesty for his sanction was one which had already been rejected by the representatives of the Protestant community as containing clauses which were unacceptable, and were at variance with the just and enlightened views of His Majesty. I have now caused to be prepared, in communication with the Protestant Vakil, the draft of a Constitution which would satisfy all the legitimate wants and demands of the Protestants in Turkey, and which appears to me to be entirely in conformity with the intentions expressed to me by His Imperial Majesty, which I did not fail to communicate to Her Majesty's Government as a fresh proof of His Majesty's earnest desire to treat, with proper justice and equality, and without distinction of creeds, all classes of his subjects.

I trust that your Excellency will approve of this draft, and that it will be found acceptable to the Sublime Porte, and that the Constitution so long promised to the Protestants will be now given to them without further delay.

I feel myself authorized to state that his Excellency the German Ambassador, who has taken a warm interest in this matter, and has strongly advocated the claims of the Protestant community, has expressed his entire approval of the accompanying draft.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 147.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 12.) *Constantinople, May 26, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN the interview I had yesterday with Sawas Pasha, he declared several times that it was the intention of his Government to apply the Règlement drawn up under Article XXIII to all the provinces of European Turkey indiscriminately. I did not consider it to be the right moment to enter into any discussion with him of the practicability of such a course, but replied that I supposed his Excellency would furnish the Commission with a map showing the exact distribution of the vilayets proposed to be affected, and any reliable statistics regarding them in his possession. Sawas Pasha thereupon said he hoped I was not claiming for the Commission any right to enter into the question of boundaries, as he would at once demur to any such claim. I said that of course the Commission was not a Boundary Commission, but it was clear that the position of the districts and places to which the Règlement was to apply might in some cases influence the opinion of the Commission as to the wisdom of the particular reforms suggested: his Excellency then consented, or seemed to consent, to my request; but I do not wish to attach any undue importance to this.

In making the above request I was mainly influenced by the following considerations: Albania is one of the portions of Turkey, coming within the sphere of the Commission for Eastern Roumelia under Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty. The district covered by this geographical expression falls mainly within the two Vilayets of Scutari and Janina, but extends also in an easterly direction beyond the watershed of the mountains dividing the streams which fall into the Adriatic from those which fall into the Ægean Sea, and includes portions of the Vilayet of Bitolia or Monastir, and of the Vilayet of Pristina or Kossovo. The extension of the Albanian population in a north-easterly direction towards Pristina and Vranja is especially marked, and is fully acknowledged, even upon maps such as that of Kiepert, generally regarded as unduly favourable to the Slav element, and that published by Messrs. Stanford in the interest of the claims of the Greek Christian population. It is generally believed here that the recent Albanian movement has a more vigorous hold on this eastern district than perhaps upon any other. Drákovo, Ipek, Pristina, are all centres of activity, being in the neighbourhood not only of the territory of Montenegro, but also of that of Servia, against the latter quite as much as against the former, of which two Principalities the Albanian population considers itself to have grievances connected with recent events. If, therefore, any ill-considered attempt were made to apply to the Albanian country a Règlement adopted possibly to the Vilayets of Salonica and Adrianople,

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but not to it, the result would probably be at once to give still greater vitality to the troubles in that region. The Vilayet of Kossovo, with the exception of a Serb district extending eastward from Mitrovitza, may be said to be Albanian; its geographical position renders its future of peculiar importance. It is a mountainous region, traversed by portions of the valleys of the Ibar and the Morava, through which some portion of the lines destined eventually to unite the Austro-Hungarian railway system to the Salonica-Mitrovitza line must pass. I, therefore, propose, subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Ambassador, and unless I receive direction to the contrary from your Lordship, to object to the immediate application of the Règlement to the Vilayets of Scutari and Janina and Kossovo or Pristina, on the ground that the circumstances of those districts require separate consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 148.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 13.)
Constantinople, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Exarch called here on the 28th instant. I had gone to Therapia to see Mr. Goschen, and was in consequence unfortunately unable to receive his Eminence personally.

The inclosed paper No. 1 contains the substance of the observations addressed by the Exarch to Lieutenant Vincent. I may add that on the 26th instant I met the Archimandrite Methodios, also of the Bulgarian Church, at the Robert College, and had a long interview with him, in which he expressed views on the whole similar to those of the Exarch. I gathered, however, from the Archimandrite, that he was of opinion that the system of local Government in East Roumelia, modelled on a purely French pattern by Baron de Ring, was too complicated and expensive, and that a greater degree of power, subject to a less degree of administrative supervision, could be well entrusted, as I myself had suggested, to a unit of local Government smaller than either the sandjak or the caza.

The Greek Orthodox Bishop of Salonica has handed to me, through Mr. Blunt, a paper containing the wishes of the Greek population, a translation of which, by Lieutenant Vincent, will be found in Inclosure No. 2, sent herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

Memorandum.

THE Bulgarian Exarch called at 11·30 A.M. to-day. He expressed himself very sorry not to see Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, and hoped he would be able to do so on some future occasion. He said that the Bulgarians had hailed the advent of the Liberal party to power with joy, and that they hoped for great advantages from the special mission of Mr. Goschen; that the condition of affairs in the remaining provinces of Turkey in Europe was much worse than before the war with Russia, there being neither security, nor liberty, nor justice.

He further stated that the Greeks were now more bitter enemies of the Bulgarians than the Turks had ever been; that they had made gross misstatements with regard to their numbers; that in truth more than two-thirds of the population of Macedonia were Bulgarian, and that the Turks came next in point of number. He appeared most anxious that a reliable census should be made.

With regard to village communities, his Beatitude said that it was in accordance both with the instincts and the history of the Bulgarian people, for the villages to govern themselves, with but little interference on the part of the central authority, but he did not appear very decided as to the alleged superfluity of Prefects and Baillis in East Roumelia, or as to the too great complexity of the Constitution, stating only that there was too much centralization, and that the country was divided into too many districts.

The remedies, he proposed, for the existing state of affairs were:—

1. Permanence of the tenure of the Vali for a term of five years.

2. The election of judicial authorities.
3. Publicity of the proceedings in Courts of Justice.
4. Freedom of the press (on which his Beatitude laid great stress).
5. A strong and efficient gendarmerie.

He seemed doubtful whether the Christian populations would willingly accept compulsory military service in lieu of the Bedel-i-Askerie, but the Archimandrite, who accompanied his Beatitude, was strongly of opinion that they would.

(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT.

May 28, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 148.

Memorandum respecting the Chief Requirements of the Christian Community of Salonica.

(Translation.)

THAT the use of Greek shall be sanctioned after that of the official Turkish, since it is the language generally spoken and written.

2. That the Governors, Mutessarifs, Kaimakams, and other officials shall be chosen fairly from among the Christians as well as from among the Mahommedans, and that the gendarmerie shall be composed of Christians in due proportion.

3. That the internal administration of schools, viz., the choice of masters, the management of the lessons, &c., shall be left, as hitherto, in the hands of the community, which will also defray the expenses of maintenance.

4. That the privileges granted to the Metropolitan—as, for example, those concerning agreements, marriage contracts, and in general concerning everything connected with marriage, &c.—shall remain unimpaired; further, that all business concerning the property of orphans shall be transacted by the Metropolitan.

5. That the tithe shall be replaced by a land tax.

No. 149.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 14.)
Constantinople, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE a copy of the note to the Porte unanimously agreed upon by the Commissioners at the informal meeting held here on the 29th instant, of which I informed your Lordship by telegraph. The measures which it requests the Porte to take with a view to setting the Commission in motion were understood to be:—

1. The nomination of the Turkish Commissioner.

2. The immediate circulation among the Commissioners of the official French translation of the Règlement, which is now known to have been completed at least a month ago.

3. The early appointment of a place and day of meeting.

It was agreed that I should present this note to Savas Pasha, in the event of my not receiving satisfactory assurances from Said Pasha, whom I was to see in the afternoon of the following day, and that we should also let it reach the latter that some such course was likely to be adopted. As I have already informed your Lordship, the appointment of the Turkish Commissioners, Assim Pasha and Abro Effendi, was communicated to me by Said Pasha at our interview. The Prime Minister also asked me to inform my colleagues that we could at once enter into official relations with the Turkish Commissioners; that, within two days at most, Assim Pasha would send copies to us of the official French translation of the new "Loi," and that he would shortly prepare for our use an abstract of the demands of the "Commissions Spéciales," that I might communicate with Assim Pasha next day as to the day of meeting, and that the Galata Serai would be set apart for the use of the Commission.

Under these circumstances, I did not present the note; but I have furnished Assim Pasha with a copy of it, in order that the Turkish Commissioners may not allow any delay to ensue in the delivery of the official French translation.

I also inclose a copy of a *pro-memorid* in regard to certain points of procedure discussed and agreed upon yesterday by the Commissioners, in order to save time at their first official meeting. The Commissioners regretted that the precedents made it practically impossible to adopt any other course than that decided upon in regard to

the Presidency. They foresee that considerable difficulties are likely to arise from that office being left to the Turkish Commissioner.

They also foresee that difficulties are likely to arise from the Turkish Representatives possibly absenting themselves entirely from the meetings, and thereby attempting to stop the proceedings. The presence of at least one representative of the Powers interested has hitherto been always held necessary to the transaction of regular business. The Commissioners agreed to call the attention of their respective Governments to this difficulty.

The Austrian and French Commissioners agreed with me in thinking that the position of the Commission of which we were members differed in regard to this matter from most other International Commissions. In the case of the latter, the various powers interested appear upon an equal footing, and are engaged in a common work. In the present case one of these Powers appears before the others to consult them upon a piece of legislation before it is promulgated. The Commission, in the event of a refusal on the part of the Porte to comply with its advice, cannot prevent this promulgation, even if it wishes to do so; neither do the ulterior steps which the Great Powers may think it right to take fall within the province of the Commission under its present powers. It would, therefore, appear extraordinary if the Porte were now able to prevent the Commissioners of the other Powers from even pronouncing their opinion. The Turkish Commissioner is presumably invited to be present, in order that he may have the opportunity of defending the work of his own Government. If he chooses to absent himself, he places his Government in the position of a suitor who, without reason, does not appear in Court, and then expects that the proceedings in which he is concerned should be indefinitely adjourned.

On the other hand, the technical argument that the Commission can only proceed when "au complet"—an argument much insisted upon by M. de Braunschweig—is very powerful.

The Commissioners at their meeting on the 20th also discussed the question of their procedure in regard to petitions, and arrived at a substantial agreement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 149.

Note addressed to the Porte by the East Roumelian Commissioners.

LES Soussignés, membres de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale réunis à Constantinople sur l'invitation de la Sublime Porte, en vertu de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, constatent avec regret que le Délégué Ottoman n'a pas encore été nommé. Ils prient en conséquence son Excellence Sawas Pacha de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que la Commission étant au complet, elle puisse entreprendre dans un bref délai les travaux dont elle est chargée.

(Signé) V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
C. AUBARET.
EDMOND FITZMAURICE.
ALEX. VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Constantinople, le 29 Mai, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 149.

Resolution of East Roumelian Commissioners, May 29, 1880.

MM. LES Délégués d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, s'étant réunis aujourd'hui 29 Mai, 1880, afin d'échanger leurs idées d'une façon tout-à-fait officieuse, ont discuté les points suivants, sur lesquels ils sont tombés successivement d'accord :

1. Que l'avis qu'ils sont appelés à donner sur les projets qui doivent leur être soumis s'exercera en toute liberté et comportera tels et tels critiques et tels amendements qu'il pourra sembler utiles de produire.

2. Que les omissions qui auraient pu être commises au sujet de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin pourront donner lieu à tels et tels observations que MM. les Délégués croiront devoir faire.

3. Que néanmoins, malgré ses omissions MM. les Délégués entreront en matière tout en se réservant le droit d'y revenir.

4. Que la Présidence sera offerte au Délégué Ottoman, mais qu'il sera bien spécifié que c'est par courtoisie.

5. Que les décisions de la Commission seront prises à la majorité des voix.

6. Que les Protocoles seront rédigés le plus sommairement possible. Il leur sera toutefois annexé les notes présentées par l'un des MM. les Délégués qui en ferait la demande.

7. MM. les Délégués ont enfin signé une pièce commune par laquelle ils expriment leur regret sur le retard apporté par la Sublime Porte à la nomination de son représentant. M. le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne a bien voulu se charger de la faire parvenir à Sawas Pacha.

No. 150.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 1, 1880.*

THE Règlement drawn up by the Turkish Government is entitled "Loi des Vilayets de la Roumélie." It consequently applies to all the vilayets of European Turkey indiscriminately, the expression "Roumelia" not being confined in Turkish geography to the old Vilayet of Adrianople, as it is in most books, but applying to the European as distinct from the Asiatic provinces.

The Law consists of twenty-three Titles or Chapters, divided into 449 Articles.

The first Title deals with "the general rights of the inhabitants," with the exception of Articles 19, 21, 23, and 24. It is chiefly occupied with a new proclamation, in striking phrases, of those moral and political axioms in regard to equality before the law, personal liberty, the security of property, education, and monopolies, which, in theory, have for many years been the basis of legislation in this country.

Articles 19, 20, 21, 23, and 24 are as follows :—

"Article 19. A l'exception des droits de Douane, de la taxe des sels, et des impôts sur les tabacs, le dixième des autres revenus généraux de chaque vilayet, après prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale, sera abandonné à ce vilayet pour la construction et la réparation des routes, ponts, et échelles, le creusement des canaux, le dessèchement des marais, et, en général, pour les travaux d'utilité publique et la propagation de l'instruction. Le reste sera affecté au budget de la guerre et aux autres dépenses générales de l'Administration Centrale. Cependant, les revenus des vakoufs, n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

"Art. 20. Dans chaque vilayet, quiconque possède les connaissances et la capacité exigées par la loi, pourra être admis aux fonctions publiques. Cependant, nul ne pourra être Caïmacam dans son caza, ni Mutessarif dans son sandjak.

"Art. 21. Les Jugements rendus par les Tribunaux seront écrits en langue Turque ; il en sera donné aussi une traduction certifiée conforme dans la langue employée par la majorité des habitants. Parmi les Juges, ceux qui connaissent les langues locales seront préférablement nommés. Quant aux Juges d'Instruction ("Mustantiq") ils seront pris absolument parmi ceux qui possèdent ces langues."

"Art. 23. Conformément aux dispositions qui seront indiquées plus loin, il sera constitué dans chaque vilayet une Assemblée Générale de vilayet, dont la majorité des membres sera élue par les habitants. Cette Assemblée Générale aura le droit de déléguer auprès du Vali une Commission Permanente, qui, avec des attributions déterminées, hâtera la mise en exécution des décisions prises par l'Assemblée Générale, et préparera, de concert avec le Vali, les questions qui devront être soumises à ses délibérations de l'année suivante.

"Art. 24. Les Conseils Généraux des vilayets, en outre des attributions qui seront définies dans un Titre spécial, sont aussi autorisés à exprimer leurs opinions, et proposer des amendements aux lois et règlements qui se rapportent :—

"(*a.*) Aux attributions des diverses branches d'Administrations créées par la présente loi.

"(*b.*) A la substitution ou à la modification des impôts existants.

"(*e.*) A l'assiette des taxes et des impôts nouveaux dans le but d'augmenter les revenus.

"(*d.*) A la comptabilité du vilayet.

"(*c.*) A l'instruction publique.

"(*f.*) Aux droits d'octroi, aux mines, aux forêts, et aux eaux.

"(*g.*) Aux routes ordinaires, ainsi qu'à la concession et à l'exploitation des chemins de fer, et, en général, à tous les autres travaux d'utilité publique.

"(*h.*) A l'agriculture, au commerce, et à l'industrie.

"(*i.*) A la création des banques et des sociétés.

"(*j.*) Aux terres et propriétés cédées aux vilayets."

Under Chapters II and III the government of the vilayets is vested in a Governor-General and seven departmental Directors, including the Alay Bey, or Colonel of gendarmerie. These are all appointed by the Porte. The tenure of the Governor-General is for a term of five years. The Directors form the Council of Administration. The analogy of the old "Loi sur les Vilayets" is here closely followed.

Chapter IV deals with the composition of the Assembly. I may observe that this Assembly is sometimes spoken of as "Assemblée Générale" and sometimes as "Conseil Général." It consists of:—

"Article 65. 1. Ceux qui en sont membres de droit; (2) les membres élus par la population; (3) les membres nommés par le Vali.

"La moitié des membres du Conseil étant renouvelée tous les deux ans, le Conseil aura une durée de quatre années."

The Budget is prepared by the Director-General (Article 52, *g.*) and is submitted by the Governor-General to the Assembly (Articles 32, 38). The Assembly "examines" and controls it.

The language of the clauses relating to this important subject seems to me dangerously vague, while under Article 38 (Chapter 2) what appears to be a veto on the Budget is given to the Porte.

Articles 84 and 85 confer on the Assembly a "consultative voice" in regard to a variety of local matters, such as schools and roads, with the power of levying "des centimes additionnels" to defray any expenditure recommended under this head.

The Assembly elects a Committee of its members ("Conseil Permanent") to control the Directors during the intervals between the sessions (Articles 96—100).

Chapter V establishes an official newspaper.

Chapters VI to XII deal with the units of Local Administration and their government. Following again very closely the analogy of the "Lois sur les Vilayets," the province is divided into sandjaks, the sandjaks into cazas, and the cazas into urban districts and nahiés. These last consist of villages or groups of villages. There would, however, appear to be this distinction, that whereas under the "Lois sur les Vilayets," the division of the caza into nahiés was permissive, it is now made compulsory. The sandjak is governed by a Mutessarif, appointed by the Porte; the caza by a Kaïmakam, appointed by the Vali and confirmed by the Porte; and the urban districts and nahiés by Presidents and Mayors, appointed by the Mutessarif from among the members of the Council. The Mutessarif, the Kaïmakam, and the Mayors and Presidents are all assisted by Councils with a deliberative voice.

The powers of the Mutessarif and Kaïmakam may be compared to those of the Prefect and Sub-Prefect in France; the powers of the Chairman and the Mudir to those of the Maire. The commune and the towns are everywhere held in strict administrative "tutelle," spreading from the Governor-General downwards over the land.

The organization of the villages is denominational or by churches. Each congregation elects a Moukhtar or Headman, who, assisted by a "Conseil des Anciens," represents his community in all denominational matters, and (Article 179) is also their agent in various civil transactions with the Government, such as the levy of the taxes. In every caza there are denominational Councils which exercise a certain control over the congregations in the villages in regard to property and endowments.

The Council of the sandjak which assists the Mutessarif is composed of—

"Article 117. Six membres élus par la population, moitié Musulmane et moitié non-Musulmane; le Mufti de la ville, les Chefs religieux des communautés, le Mouhassébedji, le Directeur de la Correspondance, en font partie de droit; dans les villes où il y a plus d'un Chef religieux, ils se succéderont à tour de rôle tous les mois."

The Mutessarif is President.

The Council of the caza which assists the Kaïmakam is—

"Article 145. Quatre membres élus par la population, dont deux Musulmans et deux non-Musulmans. Le Mufti de la ville, les Chefs spirituels des communautés, le

Mal-Mudiri, le Secrétaire de la Correspondance, en font partie de droit. Dans les villages où il y a plus d'un Chef spirituel, ils se succèdent à tour de rôle tous les mois."

The Kaïmakam is the President.

The Council of the nahié is wholly elective (Article 170).

The powers of the Council of the nahié and its Mudir are defined in Articles 167 and 171:—

"Article 167. Les attributions des Mudirs se composent: de la publication des lois, règlements, ordres, et avertissements du Gouvernement; de la vérification de l'origine et du fondement des plaintes des habitants au sujet des fonctionnaires et de la notification au Caïmacam de l'exécution des enquêtes préliminaires et de la notification au caza des événements et crimes; de l'exécution des instructions écrites du Gouvernement pour les affaires de leur compétence; du recensement de la population du nahié et concernant les intérêts municipaux; et pour celles des questions susmentionnées qui sont relatives à l'assiette et à la perception des impôts et qui auront été décidées en Conseil, ils en demandent l'autorisation au Caïmacam.

Article 171. Les Conseils des nahiés délibèrent:

1. Sur les questions relatives à la voirie et à la salubrité des villages compris dans le nahié; à la construction et à la réparation des chemins particuliers reliant les villages ainsi que les ponts, à la construction et à l'entretien des édifices, fontaines, puits, citernes, conduites d'eau, égouts, fossés, et autres appartenant aux villages;

2. Sur les questions concernant la prospérité de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de l'industrie, l'accroissement dans l'arrondissement des instruments agricoles et des bestiaux de labour, ainsi que l'amélioration des semences dégénérées;

3. Sur l'amélioration des lits de fleuves, rivières, et torrents qui dévastent les champs, et la construction de digues pour la préservation des récoltes;

4. Sur la bonne administration et l'entretien des parcs, bois, prairies, pâturages d'hiver et d'été, appartenant à la commune, et sur la nomination des gardes champêtres et forestiers avec définition de leurs devoirs.

5. Sur le dénombrement de la population, suivant le mode indiqué par l'autorité.

6. Sur la surveillance des affaires relatives aux écoles et aux temples.

Chapter XIII deals with elections.

Every Ottoman subject being 21 years of age, and not labouring under certain special disabilities, who (1) pays tithe or land tax; (2) is the owner of, or heir to, real property; (3) is the head of a commercial or manufacturing establishment, is an elector.

The electors of the village choose the Moukhtar and the "Conseil des Anciens" of the respective congregations. The latter elect the "Conseils des Communautés."

The electors also elect the Council of the nahié, and the Mudir is chosen from among the members of the Council by the Kaïmakam.

The Councils of the nahié elect the Council of the cazas.

The Councils of the cazas elect the Council of the sandjak.

There is a property qualification for all these Councils in an ascending scale, and the vote of the Councils is a corporate, not an individual vote of the members.

Under the existing "Lois sur les Vilayets" the machinery of election is as follows: The inhabitants of a district elect their Councillors, but they are bound to furnish a list containing twice the necessary number of names, and the Mutessarif chooses those who suit him best.

The Councillors thus picked out, meet at the chief town of the province, and proceed to elect Provincial Councillors, but just as in the case of the District Councillors, they are obliged to present a list with twice the necessary number of names, and the Vali nominates, from among these candidates, those who seem to him best suited to become members of the Councils of the province.

In their turn again, these Councils, which have been twice thinned out, meet at the chief town of the villayet, and go through the same forms as the District Councils; the Vali then names the "Conseillers-Généraux," with this restriction, that the sanction of the Porte must be obtained; it is, as a matter of fact, very rarely refused.

Thus it is evident that the Councils elected under these regulations cannot be considered as a direct representation of the people, uninfluenced by the authorities, and, since this is the case, it is impossible for them to be efficacious.

The Governors having the power to select candidates, naturally choose those who offer them, either explicitly or tacitly, the best guarantees of acquiescence and submission. All, these elections are futile formalities, intended only to mislead public opinion, by making it believe in a genuine imitation of the forms adopted in Constitutional countries.

The new law may therefore be said to be an improvement, so far as the subject of

elections is concerned. But I am inclined to think that the whole machinery of Local Government and Administration is far too complicated and expensive, and I propose shortly to place before your Lordship some considerations bearing upon the subject.

The members of the Councils of the nahiés meet together in electoral divisions composed of the cazas, and elect the Council of the Vilayet, or General Assembly.

Chapter XIV relates to Justice, but is little more than a brief reference to certain laws which are about to be promulgated.

Chapter XV relates to Public Instruction. It gives a general control to the Director of Public Instruction, provides for a system of grants in aid to primary schools, and for the establishment of a High School.

Chapter XVI declares that the Civil Service shall not be able to plead their official position in bar of any legal proceedings against them.

Chapter XVII deals with the appointment of the Vali and other officials. The substance of the more important Articles of this chapter has already been given above, in connection with the analysis of Chapter III.

The inferior officials are appointed by the Vali, assisted by an official Committee of Selection.

Chapter XVIII provides a special procedure for the trial of public functionnaries and Civil servants.

Chapters XIX and XX contain a number of special provisions connected with roads, bridges, highways, rivers, mines, minerals and the Game Laws. Article 358 imposes a "corvée" for the maintenance of the roads.

Chapter XXI is entitled "Finances." It begins by a vague allusion to "des Règlements nouveaux" which are about to appear on the whole subject. It declares, however, that the system of farming the tithes is to be at once abolished, but that the old system of levy is to be continued by the Government collectors, till a Commutation Act is passed.

Articles 420 and 421, which relate to the verghi, and to a new tax upon incomes, are important because they allude to a fresh summons of the Turkish Parliament.

Articles 422 and 430 provide for the formation of Assessment and Valuation Committees.

Chapter XXII deals with the property and public buildings of the vilayets.

Chapter XXIII deals with the subject of audit and account, but is only a reference to the "Règlements" which will be promulgated by the Director of Finance on the subject.

Such is a sketch of the contents of the "Règlement."

There is only an incidental mention of the subject of "gendarmerie" (in Article 64). The Vali appoints an Alay Bey, or Commandant of Gendarmerie. The duties of this official will be defined by the Vali.

There are no effectual provisions for a gaol delivery, or for the inspection of prisons, neither are there provisions as to the secularization of vacouf land, or the abolition of the Bedel-i-Askerie, or the jurisdiction of the Mahommedan Tribunals of the Cheriat.

In a subsequent despatch I shall call your Lordship's attention to what appear to be the principal defects of these propositions, and to the amendments which appear to me to be the most necessary, as well as to various points of detail not mentioned above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 151.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 261. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, May* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a Report which has been addressed to my Austrian colleague by the Austrian Vice-Consul at Bourgas, on the subject of the recent outrages committed in the Aïdos Balkans by the troops of the neighbouring Principality, aided, as alleged by the Vice-Consul, by local Bashi-Bazouks, that is to say, by members of the "Gymnastic Society of Southern Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 151.

M. Adelberg to M. Piombazzi.

Bourgas, May 24, 1880.

THE rumours which I communicated to you, by my Report of the 13th instant, respecting the plundering and burning of Turkish villages by Bulgarians have unfortunately obtained confirmation, as I had the honour to telegraph on the 13th and 16th instants.

On the pretext that there were Turkish brigands in the Balkans, Bulgarian troops were dispatched from the Principality. These, in conjunction with Bashi-Bazouks collected together from this neighbourhood, proceeded to blockade, to plunder and burn down, innocent Turkish villages, to violate women, and to torture and kill men and children. The number of victims is not yet known; that of the villages burned is thirteen, viz., the villages of Balibé, Jusuf-Tcholbanlar (Jubanlar), Kedikler, Lipuj Nadirler, Karanmudja, Hodja-keui, Ojuzeké (Gözekedere), Veli Pasha, Kairak, Kozanli, Tchélébi-keui, and Denisken (Denisler?).

The local authorities exhibit, under these circumstances, an apathy so incomprehensible, and so great an amount of negligence, that it must be assumed that they connive with the authors of these horrible events and lend a hand for the purpose of systematically exterminating and driving out the Turks who live in this part of Eastern Roumelia.

There is no doubt that the Bulgarian Secret Committees instigate and promote these inhuman proceedings.

Many fugitive Turkish families have arrived at Eminé, where they are blockaded by the Bulgarians, and where they await their miserable fate.

Near Missevria there are likewise fugitive Turkish families, which are not allowed to enter the town in order that the latter may not suffer also.

Orders have been sent from here to the boatmen of Missevria to transport the fugitives to Vassilikos, in Turkey.

Fear and terror have spread among the Turks, and many Turkish villages are being abandoned by their inhabitants, in order to save themselves from an attack by the Bulgarians. It is characteristic (of the situation), that the local Prefect has always been absent whenever disorders have occurred in the Balkans, and that his *locum tenens* has never wished to adopt measures or to undertake any responsibility.

I have reported simultaneously to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ADELBERG.

No. 152.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 262. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, May* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

MY Greek colleague has communicated to me confidentially the inclosed translation of a Report which he addressed to the Greek Minister at Constantinople on the 12th June of last year, on the subject of a conversation which he had had with the Marquis of Bath relative to the future political condition of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and the manner in which that condition would affect Russian and Hellenic views and aspirations.

Although the arguments used by M. Matalas are those of a Greek patriot, I venture to submit to your Lordship that many of them are of considerable force from a wider point of view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 152.

M. A. Natalis to the Greek Minister at Constantinople.

(Traduction.)

Philippopoli, le 12 Juin, 1880.

Monsieur,

M. LE MARQUIS DE BATH, Membre de la Chambre des Lords, est arrivé la semaine dernière dans notre ville par voie de Belgrade et de Sophia. Sa tournée a pour but de recueillir des renseignements sur les diverses nationalités de ces endroits, renseignements propres à soutenir l'union de cette province avec la Principauté de Bulgarie et à combattre les idées du Cabinet Beaconsfield.

Ce monsieur, pendant les trois jours qu'il est resté en notre ville, a eu des relations avec des Bulgares et des Russes, et principalement avec le Consul-Général de Russie, qui l'a présenté seulement à notre Archevêque. Si ce monsieur, pendant son séjour à Philippopoli, se bornerait à prendre des renseignements des Bulgares et des Russes exclusivement, il n'y a aucun doute que dans la question proprement Bulgare il serait victime des idées Bulgares; mais ayant eu vent de cela et ayant appris, en même temps que ma visite lui causerait un plaisir, je me suis empressé d'aller le voir.

Dans notre entrevue M. le Marquis me demanda, en premier lieu, le point où se trouve la question Greco-Turque? Sur ma réponse que cette question reste toujours au même point de discussion et de doute entre les Puissances, et principalement entre l'Angleterre et la France, M. le Marquis me répondit que la conduite du Cabinet Anglais est inqualifiable; qu'il a trompé, qu'il s'est moqué, et qu'il se moque encore de la Grèce, rien que pour faire plaisir à sa très-chère Turquie.

Après quoi il me demanda si la Bulgarie tracée par le Général Ignatieff ne serait pas plus avantageuse aux Grecs? Je lui répondis, non; il me répliqua alors que si la Bulgarie s'étendait jusqu'à la mer Egée les Grecs, qui y seraient compris, pourraient, par leur supériorité intellectuelle, par l'occupation des côtes pour le commerce, et par leur navigation, exercer une grande mission civilisatrice sur toute la Bulgarie, et que l'extension de la Bulgarie jusqu'à l'Egée pourrait occasionner sa liaison directe avec toute l'Europe et l'Amérique, même aussi bien que son attachement aux idées Européennes, ce qui l'arracherait des mains des Russes.

Les Grecs, lui répondis-je, pouvaient exercer une influence sur les Bulgares si ces derniers n'avaient pas comme base de leur existence l'extermination des autres peuples cohabitants et s'ils étaient inspirés par des sentiments nobles. Malheureusement leur histoire et leur conduite depuis l'année passée envers les autres nationalités ne peuvent nous donner cet espoir. Leur haine contre tout ce qui n'est pas Slave et leur fanatisme Slave sont à tel point que non-seulement ils ne veulent pas entendre parler de la civilisation Européenne mais, de peur de son influence, ils tâchent d'exterminer tout élément qui pourrait y introduire une telle civilisation. Quant à votre opinion sur ce que, si la Bulgarie s'étendait jusqu'à la mer Egée, il serait facile de la détacher de la Russie, permettez-moi de vous dire qu'elle n'est pas pratique pour les raisons suivantes:

Nous, Grecs, nous sommes liés aux Russes par la religion, et ce n'est que pour cette raison-là que nous avions été attachés à la Russie jusqu'à 1854, et que nous avions espéré d'elle toute notre réintégration, malgré que pendant la lutte de l'indépendance Grecque il n'y avait que l'Angleterre et la France qui nous avaient prêté leur appui efficace. Nous avions formé un Etat, nous avions eu des idées politiques nationales et basées sur notre histoire, nous avions travaillé pour le développement de notre nation en y introduisant la civilisation occidentale. Néanmoins, comme je viens de le dire, jusqu'à 1854 la majorité de la nation penchait du côté de la Russie, et pour qu'elle soit complétement détachée d'elle il a fallu que sa politique infernale soit dévoilée.

Les Bulgares, par contre, sont liés aux Russes par la religion, la race, et par le plus fort de tous les liens, celui de la langue. En outre, la Russie jusqu'à présent ne fut que leur unique protectrice et elle a fait voir par tous les moyens possibles qu'elle ne les distinguait pas des Russes. Si nous ajoutons à ce qui précède des idées prédominantes de notre époque, savoir, que l'existence et la force des nations consiste à l'union de la même race à un corps, idée presque réalisée par la race Allemande, est-il possible de croire qu'on pourrait détacher les Bulgares de l'intégrité de la race Slave? Enfin, continuais-je, mon séjour de onze ans dans les différentes parties de la Bulgarie, et les agissements des Russes, me font croire que c'est une utopie que de penser qu'on peut détacher les Bulgares de l'intégrité et de la tendance à l'union de toutes les races Slaves.

M. le Marquis me demanda ensuite mon opinion sur la Roumélie Orientale; l'union de cette dernière à la Bulgarie ne serait-elle pas préférable, me dit-il? S'il faut, lui répondis je, servir les projets Russes pour la prompte occupation de Constantinople, il va sans dire que l'union de la Roumélie à la Bulgarie est à préférer; mais s'il s'agit de la sécurité de Constantinople, les Balcans étant les seules limites naturelles pour sa défense, il n'est pas d'intérêt que la Roumélie Orientale soit unie à la Bulgarie; il faut au contraire y appliquer pleinement et impartialement le Statut Organique.

M. le Marquis me fit remarquer que Constantinople peut être protégé par Tchataldja. Oui, lui dis-je, Constantinople peut être protégé comme une ville et non pas comme capitale d'un Etat. D'ailleurs, vous n'avez qu'à parcourir tout le pays jusqu'à Constantinople pour tomber d'accord avec moi sur ce que le maître de la Roumélie Orientale doit être celui de Constantinople, et que le maître de Constantinople doit être aussi celui de la Roumélie Orientale.

Alors, répliqua-t-il, tout ce qu'on peut dire des Balcans on peut le dire avec plus de sûreté du Danube, attendu que la ligne la plus sûre pour la sécurité de Constantinople était et est encore le Danube?

Je ne nie pas, lui dis-je, que le Danube était la première ligne défensive, mais celle-ci étant perdue, celle des Balcans vient en second lieu et après cette dernière il n'en existe pas une autre pour défendre Constantinople comme capitale d'un Empire. Je ne suis pas militaire, lui ajoutai-je, mais des descriptions des militaires des limites défensives et des discussions que j'ai lues sur ce point, je puis arriver à cette conclusion. M. le Marquis me dit que, d'après lui, l'avenir de la Grèce n'est pas vers le nord, mais plutôt vers l'Asie Mineure, et que les Grecs de Constantinople, ne pensant pas comme ceux de la Grèce libre, appuient la Turquie par leur séparation des autres races. L'Asie Mineure, lui dis-je, est vraiment un pays Grec, mais la Grèce ne peut pas exister sans embrasser, en cas de décomposition de l'Empire Ottoman, les provinces Grecques en Europe. Les Grecs de Constantinople sont inspirés des mêmes idées que les Grecs libres; ils ne sont pas la cause de la séparation des races; mais en protégeant l'Hellénisme et en portant obstacle au but poursuivi par les Slaves, se sont présentés expressément comme tels. Si vous causez avec eux vous saurez apprécier leurs opinions vraiment Grecques. "Jeter nos regards sur l'Asie Mineure," cela n'est qu'une idée Russe; et il n'y a pas longtemps que j'ai entendu ces mêmes paroles prononcées de la bouche d'un Russe avec qui je causais à propos de la question d'Orient.

Les Grecs pour le quart d'heure n'ont nullement pensé à l'Asie Mineure, ayant fait de conationaux qui souffrent dans l'Europe. D'ailleurs, l'occupation de l'Ile de Chypre par vous prouve vos intentions en Asie, intentions que nous ne saurons jamais attaquer pour la simple raison que, malgré la conduite anti-Hellénique de votre Gouvernement, nous sommes persuadés que les Anglais seront toujours nos protecteurs et même bienfaiteurs, comme ils l'ont été lors de la concession des Iles Ioniennes; nous en avons la pleine conviction, car, en égard à la position que nous occupons en Europe et à nos intérêts contre le Slavisme, nous sommes vos uniques alliés et la grande garde de l'Angleterre en Orient.

M. le Marquis m'a dit à propos de l'occupation de Chypre que le Gouvernement en occupant cette île n'avait d'autre intention que de se présenter devant le public Anglais comme ayant pris Chypre en revanche des concessions faites à la Russie et à l'Autriche.

Chypre ne pourra pas nous servir pour protéger les Indes, continua-t-il; mais nous n'avons rien à craindre de ce côté là. L'Angleterre, grâce à ses finances florissantes et à la supériorité de sa force navale, n'a rien à craindre; il est vrai, dit-il, que la Russie est un immense Empire, mais elle n'est pas à craindre, et elle ne peut encore inspirer la crainte parce qu'elle n'est pas organisée. Je lui ai fait remarquer alors que les Puissances, visant plus loin, ne doivent prendre en considération l'état actuel de la Russie; mais elles doivent penser ce que la Russie peut devenir plus tard, soit même après deux siècles, et prendre à temps toutes les mesures nécessaires, pour qu'elles soient prêtes pour toute éventualité.

C'est juste, répondit le Marquis, mais qui sait ce qui peut arriver dans cette intervalle.

Après une courte discussion nous sommes revenus sur les projets des Russes en Orient; sur quoi je lui ai dit que les Russes persistent toujours à l'idée de l'occupation de Constantinople pour se servir de centre à gouverner tout le Slavisme et pouvoir continuer et étendre leurs possessions en Asie; unir d'abord toute la race Slave à une seule confédération et former ensuite un Empire, c'est-à-dire réaliser ce que la Prusse a réalisé en Allemagne.

Pour ce qui est de l'occupation de Constantinople, poursuivis-je, les Russes ont changé leur manière de voir ; ils ne pensent plus à une occupation directe, car ils se sont formé la conviction que, le cas échéant, ils auront toute l'Europe contre eux. Ils pensent à une occupation indirecte ; ils ont crée la Bulgarie, ils demandent la neutralisation des Balcans, afin que le chemin conduisant à Constantinople soit plus facile ; ils poursuivront plus tard la ruine de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe par ces mêmes races des Balcans et, s'ils réussissent, la force la plus proche de Constantinople occupera cette dernière, cette force, dès que les Balcans seront neutralisés et que la Roumélie sera unie à la Bulgarie, cette force, dis-je, ne sera que la Bulgarie. Ainsi Constantinople, tombée entre les mains des Bulgares ne sera plus qu'entre les mains des Russes.

Quant à l'idée de faire de Constantinople une ville libre, en cas de la ruine de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe, elle ne pourra être réalisée que pour quelque temps, vu les différentes péripéties auxquelles l'Europe se trouve si souvent exposée, et si l'Europe Occidentale ne vient pas appuyer l'Hellénisme et en faire une barrière contre le Slavisme, Constantinople ne sera plus que capitale Slave.

Les Russes marchent sur une politique déjà fixée et ils ne font que travailler pour sa réussite, tandis que les autres Puissances ne poursuivent aucun but positif, ainsi qu'il appert de leurs agissements.

Toutes les Puissances sont persuadées de la ruine de la Turquie ; mais il me semble qu'il n'y a que la Russie qui travaille pour préparer son successeur, et le temps viendra où la Puissance, qui avait préparé le successeur conformément à ses vues et intérêts, réussira, tandis que toutes les autres Puissances commenceront alors à penser ; mais il n'en sera plus temps.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. MATALAS.

No. 153.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 75. Confidential.)
Bucharest, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have probably noticed, in various public journals, references to the intention of the Prince of Roumania to assume at an early date the Royal title, and I had the honour to refer to this question in the last paragraph of my despatch of the 12th March, marked Secret, and subsequently on the 25th March, when, after M. Bratiano's return from Vienna and Berlin, I reported that this project had been unavoidably deferred.

The public at Bucharest and even some members of the Corps Diplomatique had not ceased, however, troubling their heads with this rumour ever since, even assigning the date of the 22nd May as the day on which this plan was to be carried into effect.

That anniversary of the accession of Prince Charles passed without anything of the kind.

The Austrian view of this assumption of title has been stated very frankly to Sir Henry Elliot by Baron Haymerle, at the time when it was really on the cards, as reported by his Excellency to the Marquis of Salisbury on the 29th March last ; and I am satisfied that, though the acquisition of a Royal style and title is considered very desirable by most of the influential people here, it will not be carried out without some previous understanding being arrived at, at least with some of the Great Powers which take an interest in the future of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 154.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 78.)
Bucharest, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE differences between this country and the Government of the Principality of Bulgaria, to which I had the honour to refer in my despatch to your Lordship on the

26th instant, have, I am happy to say, been satisfactorily adjusted, through the timely intervention of the foreign agents residing at Sophia.

M. Stourdza, the Roumanian Agent there, is about to return to his post.

Prince Alexander has, I understand, written a private letter to Prince Charles, and has thus contributed to remove the unfortunate misunderstanding, whilst his Ministers have withdrawn the Bill which gave such offence both to Serbia and to Roumania, by designating places and districts annexed to these Principalities, by the Treaty of Berlin, as Bulgarian territories.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 155.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)
Bucharest, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

FROM reports received here from the Principality of Bulgaria, it would appear that the concentration of a large force under General Ernroth, the new War Minister, about Shoumla, is very much commented upon.

Persons receiving intelligence from Bulgaria say they would not be the least surprised to hear ere long of a movement for a junction of Eastern Roumelia with the Principality, and of an attempt to override in this matter the Berlin stipulations.

One of my informants says that Prince Alexander told a friend of his in confidence that he must make up his mind shortly either to go to Philippopoli, or to allow Aleko Vogorides to take his place at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 156.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 6.)
Therapia, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant directed me to consult with my colleagues respecting the alleged destruction of Turkish villages in Eastern Roumelia.

I had an opportunity yesterday of sounding the Russian Ambassador on the subject. He appeared somewhat surprised at my broaching the question at all, and deprecated very strongly any action whatever being taken by England or any other Power. He explained how any investigation whatever, and much more any communication to Aleko Pasha or the Roumelian authorities, would greatly excite the Bulgarians in the province, and be a source of danger. His Excellency did not profess much acquaintance with the facts. When I introduced the subject first he said, "You mean the burning of three or four villages."

I said that it was not a question of burning villages alone, but that our accounts spoke of great atrocities, massacre and cruelties inflicted on women and children.

He replied, "You should not speak of a 'massacre,' that is too strong a word. 'On tue tous les jours en Orient.'"

I said I would furnish him with the information we had received, and begged him to let me know what had been reported to him.

But his Excellency's argument went very much further than a simple expression of belief as to the probable exaggeration of facts. It amounted to this, that even if the facts were true, no steps ought to be taken. He appealed to me in the most earnest manner to abstain at the present juncture from taking any steps even as to investigation. "A new leaf has been turned," he said ; "the Bulgarians are looking to England now, and it would excite them very dangerously if at such a moment the British Government were in any way to take a step which would call the attention of Europe to the Bulgarians in an unfriendly sense."

I replied that it was impossible to bury the question ; that Her Majesty's Government had received despatches which must be published, and which would excite the most painful impression ; that in the interest of the Bulgarians themselves they must have the opportunity of publicly rebutting the facts, if they could be rebutted ; that England desired the

Christian nationalities to be respected, and to show themselves capable of self-government, discipline, and strength; and that, in the interest of these populations themselves, they must clear themselves of the charge that atrocities against the Mussulmans were treated leniently.

I added that the Sultan and the Porte might complain with justice if the Powers remained entirely passive while such acts as those reported to us were going on, and while the Sultan alleged that he was not permitted to intervene himself to protect those who were still his Mussulman subjects. I called his Excellency's attention to the declaration made in Parliament on the subject by Mr. Gladstone. M. Novikoff said he had seen the report of Mr. Gladstone's observations. I pointed out to his Excellency that it was clear that Her Majesty's Government desired the investigation in no unfriendly spirit to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, but simply in the cause of justice and humanity. M. Novikoff, however, contended that the Bulgarians should be treated very leniently. He several times used the phrase that it would not be right to apply the principle of *summum jus*.

The general impression conveyed to me by his language was this, that he was not aware of any very serious outrages having been committed, but, whatever had been done, in view of the peculiar history of the Bulgarians and their present situation, *summum jus* ought not to be the standard in their case; and further, that the political considerations involved were so serious that all other considerations ought to give way before them.

We did not bring the conversation to any conclusion, as I regarded it as preliminary only, and I was anxious to ascertain the view of my other colleagues on the subject, before stating to M. Novikoff what I should actually propose.

In the course of the conversation his Excellency stated his opinion roundly that Mussulmans and Christians could not live together. On my inquiring what led him to this view, he replied that it was because the Ottomans always felt they were the real masters wherever they were present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 157.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 7. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 31, 1880.*

IN the course of a conversation which I had on Saturday with the Russian Ambassador, I casually inquired whether the sentence on the convicted murderer of Colonel Kumarroff was to be carried out. His Excellency answered, somewhat hurriedly, that he could not say. I repeated my question when I saw his Excellency again, as, in view of the great insecurity of life which prevails, much interest is felt in the way in which the Porte deals with this flagrant case. M. de Novikoff, however, could again tell me nothing, and passed very lightly over the matter.

Your Lordship will remember how much importance was attached to the subject by the Russian Government some weeks ago. For some reason or other their attitude in the question appears to have changed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 158.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived at Therapia in Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" on the afternoon of Friday, the 28th ultimo.

The next day I called, according to custom, upon the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. The interview being of a preliminary character only, nothing passed on the occasion with which I need now trouble your Lordship.

Sawas Pasha entered upon a detailed explanation on the Albanian question, and spoke at length upon other subjects, but said nothing of particular interest. Sawas Pasha promised that no delay should take place in my credentials being brought before His Majesty the Sultan, and told me he had interpreters ready to translate at once. I was led to hope that I might have the honour of an audience of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, in order to deliver my credentials, either to-day (Tuesday) or at latest to-morrow. Up to this morning, however, no communication has been made to me from the Palace, and I have learned with considerable surprise, from Sir H. Layard, who dined with the Sultan yesterday evening, that the latter had told him my application for an audience had not yet been brought by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty's notice.

I shall inform your Lordship by telegram at once when the audience is fixed. Meanwhile, I am unfortunately prevented from carrying out the instructions of Her Majesty's Government officially, and I greatly regret the delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 159.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 271. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 31, 1880.*

MR. GOULD has informed your Lordship that the representation which the Austro-Hungarian Government had stated their intention of making at Belgrade against the agrarian law, which was looked upon here and at Berlin as a practical confiscation of Mussulman property, had not been sent in.

I have inquired of Baron Kallay whether its presentation was delayed or definitively abandoned, and I understood the latter to be the case.

His Excellency said that the Turks seemed to have resigned themselves to the necessity of submitting to the measure, and the Imperial Government did not therefore feel called upon to make a protest which would probably be attended with no benefit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 160.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 278. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 2, 1880.*

I LEARN from Baron Haymerle that he has at last every expectation of being able very shortly to come to an agreement with the Russian Government respecting the Dobrudscha frontier in the neighbourhood of Silistria.

There is now, he said, only the difference of a few yards in the line which the two Governments are ready to accept, and I learn confidentially from another source that the question still to be decided is whether the road passing between Silistria and Arab-Tabia, which was placed by the majority of the Commission within the Roumanian frontier, should not be excluded from it and put upon the Bulgarian side.

I understand that his Excellency is disposed to admit the force of the argument of the Russian Government, that as the road in question constitutes the existing communication between Silistria and other Bulgarian towns or villages, it should be left within that Principality.

When the two Governments have come to an understanding between themselves upon a line acceptable to both, the concurrence of the other Governments will be invited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 161.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 282.) *Vienna, June 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE informed M. de Kállay that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared for the Conference meeting at Berlin as soon after the 15th instant as may suit the convenience of the other Powers, and that all the Governments having agreed to omit from the identic note to the Porte the invitation to Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to it, the instruction to Mr. Goschen would be altered accordingly.

His Excellency said that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador would be quite ready to take part in the Conference at the time named by your Lordship.

M. Zwedeninck, the late Austrian Agent in Bulgaria, will be sent to Berlin to give Count Szechenyi the advantage of being able to consult him with respect to the distribution of the different nationalities distributed on the Greek frontier, upon which he is well informed.

The Austro-Hungarian Government will not themselves propose any line of frontier for adoption by the Conference, but they will, I believe, be found favourable to making the cession to Greece a very liberal one.

Their view of the matter appears to be that as, in the hope of establishing better relations between Greece and Turkey, the Powers have determined to call upon the latter to make an extensive sacrifice of her territory, the measure should be made as complete for its purpose as possible, without annexing to Greece more of the unsympathetic populations than can be avoided.

It is thought that the districts or villages occupied by the different races are so dovetailed together that much delicacy may be required in finding a satisfactory frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 283. Confidential.) *Vienna, June 5, 1880.*

My Lord,

I OBSERVE that in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 6 to your Lordship, which reached me to-day under Flying Seal, reporting a conversation with the Russian Ambassador on the state of things in East Roumelia, he states M. Novikow to have declared plainly that Mussulmans and Christians could not live together.

It chanced that a couple of hours before I read that despatch I had had a conversation with M. de Kallay upon the same subject, in which I had alluded to the satisfactory state of feeling which he had found prevailing between the two races in that province, after an excursion he had made from Philippopoli while acting as Austrian Commissioner.

It will not be without interest to Her Majesty's Government to know the opinion of a man so intelligent and observant as M. de Kallay, after having enjoyed an unusual opportunity of arriving at a correct judgement.

It is in every respect diametrically opposed to that expressed by M. Novikow, for he states himself to have been astonished at finding the small amount of bad feeling between the Mussulmans and the Bulgarians left by the deplorable events that had occurred previous to, during, and after the war.

Even at Eski-Zagra, which had been the scene of some of the worst excesses during the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection in 1876, and where the Bulgarians would have had the best justification for entertaining a hatred for the Turks, he found them receiving the returning Mussulmans with perfect good-will, and with every disposition to live amicably with them.

Speaking from his own observation there and in other parts of the province, M. de Kallay is convinced that the Bulgarians, if left to themselves, would have continued to live in the harmony with their neighbours which had existed previous to the insurrection; but, unfortunately, they are not left alone, and the province has now for many months been practically governed by the Slav Committees of Moscow, the undisguised object of which is the extermination or expulsion of the Mahommedans.

The Austrian Consul at Philippopoli had lately reported in a secret despatch that

Aléko Pasha had himself admitted the authority exercised by the Moscow Committees, but professed his inability to make head against them, a profession which cannot be accepted, as it is through his Excellency's countenance that the Gymnastic Societies are in a position to carry out the instructions of the Committees.

The conclusion that M. de Kallay appears to have come to seems shortly this, that there is nothing in the character of either the Mussulman or Christian populations to prevent their living happily and prosperously together under a Governor of ordinary independence, animated by feelings of justice towards all, but that if the Governor consents to be the tool of the Moscow Committees the maltreatment to which the Mahommedans will continue to be subjected must drive the whole of them from the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 163.

Note Verbale communicated to Earl Granville by M. Léon Say, June 8.

LE tracé indiqué sommairement, et d'une façon très-générale, par M. de Freycinet, suggère un certain nombre d'observations à l'appui, qu'il est intéressant de préciser.

Du côté de l'Epire, M. de Freycinet considère le cours même du Kalamas comme pouvant servir de limite.

Il est bien clair qu'on ne pouvait adopter pour limite les faîtes des montagnes qui séparent le bassin du Kalamas de celui de l'Arta. On se serait écarté tout-à-fait de l'esprit du Traité de Berlin si on avait reculé aussi loin dans le sud.

Cependant le lit d'une rivière, facilement guéable sur beaucoup de points, à sec même pendant des mois sur une partie de son cours, constitue une frontière absolument défectueuse, et on ne saurait s'étonner que les Grecs insistent pour la porter au nord jusqu'aux faîtes, et pour s'établir en face même de Corfou afin de commander le détroit qui sépare Corfou du continent, et de dominer absolument la Vallée du Kalamas.

Il est vrai qu'on peut leur répondre qu'il serait toujours difficile à une Puissance qui posséderait les pays de la rive droite du Kalamas, d'y rassembler des forces sérieuses, lorsque sur le derrière de ces forces les Grecs resteraient en possession de Corfou.

Le district de la rive droite du Kalamas, s'étendant sur l'Adriatique jusqu'aux environs du Lac Butrinto, et comprenant le territoire de Philiatres, contient, dit-on, une vingtaine de mille âmes. La lettre du tracé de M. de Freycinet le tient en dehors, mais il est vrai que l'esprit de ce tracé, qui est de rechercher les faîtes pour en faire des limites, l'engloberait dans la Grèce.

Du côté de la Thessalie, le tracé de M. de Freycinet suit les crêtes nord du bassin du Salamyrias (Penée). Il corrige une des fautes les plus sérieuses du tracé de M. Waddington en comprenant dans la Grèce tout le bassin du Xéragis, qui est un des principaux affluents du Penée.

Laisser le bassin du Xéragis à la Turquie, c'était en effet ouvrir toute grande la porte de la nouvelle Grèce, et en remettre la clef aux mains de la Turquie.

Ce bassin doit être compris tout entier, et, dans des conditions telles qu'il soit bien fermé, dans les frontières nouvelles à donner à la Grèce.

Pour bien fermer ce bassin, il faut suivre les crêtes qui l'entourent jusqu'au massif de l'Olympe; mais il faut avoir soin de ne pas laisser ouvert le défilé de Dimitrios Petra, si rapproché du grand triangle de Lapsista, Satista, Kozani, Servia-Velvendos, où il est si facile de réunir des forces considérables, et si rapproché également des massifs de l'Olympe dont la surveillance est si difficile.

Il en résulte une sorte de nécessité qui doit faire tracer la frontière, quand on arrive au sommet du bassin du Xéragis, de manière à embrasser l'Olympe et les petits bassins côtiers jusqu'aux environs de Katherina.

Quant à la ligne à chercher pour réunir le bassin du Kalamas en Epire à celui du Salamyrias en Thessalie, ou bien elle s'infléchirait au sud de façon à compromettre le bassin même de l'Arta, ce qui paraît inadmissible, ou bien elle contournerait le bassin du Lac de Janina, donnant le lac et la ville à la Grèce; et gagnant les faîtes du bassin du Penée par le nord de Metzovo, qu'on laisserait à la Grèce également.

Le 7 Juin, 1880.

No. 164.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 144, I fully explained at the time that Her Majesty's Government would deprecate, as much as could that of Russia, any question which would prejudice the authority of the Government in Eastern Roumelia. I referred also to Mr. Gladstone's reply in Parliament to the question addressed to him on the subject of the alleged ill-treatment of the Eastern Roumelian Mussulman population, as indicative of the impartial spirit which had dictated your instructions to Mr. Goschen, and I used all the arguments suggested in your telegraphic despatches.

M. de Giers fully admitted the force of these considerations, though he insisted strongly on the little credence which ought to be given to the reports of the alleged outrages. He was also perfectly satisfied as to the motives and intentions which prompted the British Government; but he contended that the mere fact of setting on foot an official inquiry otherwise than in the manner he indicated was certain to have an unfortunate effect. He especially deprecated the intervention of a Turkish Delegate, and enlarged on the degree to which fictitious evidence would be manufactured. The Emperor and he both seemed to have founded their views upon M. Novikoff's report of his interview with Mr. Goschen.

I urged that, in the interests of the Eastern Roumelian Government itself, the real facts of the case should be elucidated.

I will again speak to M. de Giers in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 144.

No. 165.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 58. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 7, 1880.*

ITALIAN Government are anxious that Her Majesty's Government should take the initiative of a proposal for settlement of Greek Frontier question, on the same principle as that of Montenegro, namely, pacifying the South Albanians by a certain measure of self-government, with the addition of some kind of assurance that no further territorial concessions will be required of them.

Details by messenger to-day.

No. 166.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 7, 1880.*

NOTHING has been arranged to my knowledge about Consular privileges and the Capitulations in Bosnia, but I am told that they have hitherto caused no practical inconvenience.

The German Government have offered to renounce their right of appealing to the Capitulations in virtue of a law passed to that effect, but no other Government has yet done the same. A new Consul arriving in Bosnia receives no exequatur, but the Imperial authorities are instructed to recognize his official position.

No change seems to have been made as to the privilege enjoyed by Consuls in Turkey of exemption from payment of customs duties upon the things they receive from abroad.

No. 167.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 7, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 86.

Prince Hohenlohe tells me that, as there are several suggestions in regard to the best means of ascertaining the truth about the reports respecting destruction of Turkish villages in Eastern Roumelia, the German Government prefer to withhold their decision until Powers most interested are agreed upon the best course to follow.

No. 168.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 8, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE has informed my colleagues privately that, as the first meeting of the Conference must begin by the verification of our respective full powers, Prince Bismarck urged they would arrive in time for Wednesday, the 16th instant, so as to avoid delay.

No. 169.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 7, 1880.*

ABEDDIN PASHA apparently recall [group wrong]. Current version is that he is to be Prime Minister. His reputation for capacity and energy is great, but he is comparatively new, having emerged during last two years, and has no party behind him. Would have little weight with the Sultan in the long run. A second version is that Council has determined to form Prisrend and Janina into one vilayet with one Governor-General, and that Abeddin Pasha might be that Governor. Union of the vilayets would be a counter-movement to proposals on Greco-Turkish frontier.

No. 170.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880, 12·15 A.M.*

ALTER the 4th paragraph of your instructions of the 18th May from "justice to Greece demands" to "it is essential," and in the last paragraph insert "present" before "careful."

No. 171.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880, 12·20 A.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 22, you had better adhere as closely as you can to the wording of the Circular which the Powers have agreed to follow.

No. 172.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

I TOLD French, Russian, and Austrian Ambassadors to-day, as I had already told German Ambassador, that I had instructed Goschen that, unless there was perfect agree-

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.

ment, it would be better for each Ambassador to take his own line about the inquiries in Eastern Roumelia, keeping his colleagues informed as to the steps which he was taking and the results which he obtained.

No. 173.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880, 5·20 P.M.*

IN the seventh paragraph of the despatch to you No. 1 of the 18th May, take out the words from "at the meeting" down to "Adriatic," and insert "in principle to a line of frontier."

No. 174.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

YOURS No. 70.

Her Majesty's Government think that inquiry in Eastern Roumelia had better be restricted, at all events in first instance, to the particular cases of Turkish villages alleged to have been destroyed, but consider that the Agents might consult together as to the representations which it may be proper to make with regard to treatment of Mussulman population generally.

(This has been repeated to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, Lord Dufferin, Mr. Goschen, and Sir A. Paget.)

No. 175.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

THE secret of the new arrangement for the Montenegrin frontier has not been well kept at St. Petersburgh, and an inaccurate report of it appears in to-day's papers.

Please ask Baron Haymerle whether, as all the Powers have accepted it in principle, we had not better proceed at once, and ask them to instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to propose the arrangement to the Porte.

If he agrees, I would also telegraph to Mr. Green.

No. 176.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

WHAT is your opinion respecting Italian proposal in Sir A. Paget's No. 58 of yesterday, repeated to you in my No. 4?

Are South Albanians represented by Chiefs with whom you are in communication?

Do you consider that Southern and Northern Albanians should be included in one eventual arrangement or dealt with separately?

You should be careful to keep the Italian proposal strictly secret.

No. 177.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 8, 1880, 10·30 A.M.*

AT informal meeting of the Commissioners, held yesterday, a note was drawn up and sent to Turkish Commissioners, asking for a formal meeting on Saturday next at latest. If this is refused we meet again, and shall probably apply to the Ambassadors.

No. 178.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

I HAVE this day requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to make the following alterations in my instructions to you of the 18th ultimo. In the 4th paragraph, the words "It is essential" should be substituted for "Justice to Greece demands," and in the last paragraph, the word "present" should be inserted before "careful."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 179.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

WITH regard to the inquiry contained in your telegram No. 22 of yesterday as to the form of the demands to be addressed to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin question, Her Majesty's Government consider that it is advisable to adhere as closely as possible to the wording of the Circular which the Powers have agreed to follow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 180.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 290.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

IN reply to the inquiry made by Baron Haymerle of your Excellency, as reported in your telegram of the 6th instant (No. 70), whether the inquiry in Eastern Roumelia is to be confined to an investigation into the alleged destruction of Turkish villages, or is to be extended into a general inquiry into the treatment of the Mussulman population, I have informed you by telegraph that it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that, at all events in the first instance, the inquiry should be restricted to an investigation of particular cases of alleged destruction of Turkish villages; but that liberty might be given to the Agents deputed by the Powers taking part in the inquiry to consult together as to the representations which it might be proper to make on the general question of the treatment which the Mussulmans in the province have experienced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 181.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 268.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1880.*

I INCLOSE copy of an instruction which I have sent to Mr. Goschen,† the substance of which had been previously telegraphed to him, directing him, if he should find it difficult to obtain the agreement of the Representatives of the Powers to an inquiry into the reported destruction of villages in Eastern Roumelia, but in that case only, not to press for joint action, but to suggest that each Power should take separately such steps as it might think to be best, and that the Representatives should communicate to each other the nature of the steps taken by each, and the results of them.

I have to-day informed the French, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors

* Memorandum communicated by Count Károlyi, June 7.
† Similar despatches were addressed to Sir H. Elliot, the Earl of Dufferin, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.
‡ To Mr. Goschen, No. 51.

that I have sent this instruction. The German Ambassador had previously been made acquainted with the fact.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 182.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 263. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 28, 1880.

AN ecclesiastical seminary has been established in the Bulgarian "Moldovan" monastery, near Stanimaka, in the Rhodope.

The Bulgarian rural clergy have been called upon to reside in it for two months at a time, in detachments of twenty or thirty.

A priest of the Russian Church, specially deputed for the purpose, instructs them in the celebration of Divine service according to the forms and ceremonies of that Church, the tenets of both Churches being already identical.

It is evident that the establishment of a stricter uniformity in the celebration of Divine service under a liturgy which has been supplied to the Bulgarians by the Russian Synod ever since the reign of the Empress Catherine, will bring the two Churches into perfect practical communion.

Shortly after my arrival here, I drew the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the fact that the Russian prayers for the Imperial family were being habitually used throughout the Province, the Emperor and the several Grand Dukes of Russia being described as "our Emperor," "our Grand Duke," &c.

The practice is still continued, although I have been assured that in the copies of the Russian liturgy recently sent to this Province, the page containing the prayer for the Imperial family has been cut out.

At a High Mass celebrated on the 23rd instant, on the occasion of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Mgr. Panaretos offered up prayers, first for the Emperor of Russia and the rest of the Imperial family, and next for "Prince Alexander Vogorides."

The territorial Sovereign is never mentioned in the prayers of the Bulgarian clergy.

I may add that Meletus, a monk of the Monastery of St. Sergius, near St. Petersburg, resides at Philippopoli as the agent of the Russian Holy Synod. His mission is to "maintain and promote a moral union between the Russian and Bulgarian nations."

He has taken an active part in the proceedings of the Central Gymnastic Society and is more particularly intimate with Matiufski, the ex-Secretary of that Society, who signed the Circular ostracising the Greeks of this Province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 183.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 264.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 28, 1880.

THE inclosed extracts from the "Philippoupolis" refer to the celebration on the 23rd instant of the Feast of the Saints Cyril and Methodius, venerated as the principal Apostles of the Christian faith among the Slavonic tribes in the 9th century, and as the authors of the Slavonic alphabet.

General Stolipine availed himself of the occasion in order to congratulate Aleko Pásha on his successful administration of the province, and Aleko Pasha reciprocated the compliment by telegraphing to General Stolipine that the province continues to be penetrated with gratitude towards his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

LA Fête des Saints Cyrille et Méthode a été célébrée cette année avec une très-grande pompe. Après la messe à l'église de la Ste. Vierge, la procession se rendit, bannières déployées, au Conak, où Mgr. le Métropolitain de Plovdiv, chanta, au milieu de la cour, un *Te Deum*, et invoqua les bénédictions du Très-Haut pour l'Empereur de Russie et notre Gouverneur-Général. Après l'action de grâces il y a eu revue et défilé de troupes. Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, qui était indisposé, n'a pas pu assister à cette fête. On y a remarqué MM. les Consuls de Russie, de France, et d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Nous lisons dans la "Maritza":—

"A l'occasion de la Fête des Saints Cyrille et Méthode, le Général Stolipine, le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale sous l'occupation Russe, a adressé le télégramme suivant, daté d'Orel, au Prince Bogoridi:—

"'Prince Bogoridi, "'*Roumélie Orientale, Plovdiv.*

"'J'unis mes prières aux vôtres pour que les Saints Cyrille et Méthode protègent le beau pays que vous gouvernez avec tant de succès.

"'Veuillez transmettre mes félicitations au Métropolitain Panarète et à tous les Rouméliotes.'

(Signé) "'Général STOLIPINE.'

"Le Prince Bogoridi a répondu:—

"'Son Excellence le Général Stolipine, "'*Orel.*

"'Je remercie votre Excellence pour ses vœux. Les miens ne sont pas moins sincères et ardents pour votre Excellence envers laquelle la Roumélie Orientale ne cesse d'être pénétrée de gratitude.

(Signé) "'BOGORIDI.'"

No. 184.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 265.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 28, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Philippoupolis," ridiculing the defence made by the Bulgarian organ in respect to the manner in which the sum voted for Public Instruction in this province is appropriated to the benefit of the several nationalities.

The Bulgarian community have undoubtedly appropriated a great deal more than their equitable share of the provincial expenditure under the head of "Public Instruction."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

LES commentaires que nous avons faits en parlant du Budget affecté à la Direction de l'Instruction Publique, nous ont attiré la colère de la "Maritza," organe semi-officiel. C'est tout dire qu'il nous accuse d'ingratitude au pays au milieu duquel nous vivons, et que, pour se justifier, il emploie toute une série d'arguments aussi vides de sens que contraires à la vérité. Cela étant, nous voudrions qu'il nous fût permis d'insister sur les informations que nous avons données sur ce sujet; de continuer de garder notre grand respect pour les millions affectés à l'instruction primaire, secondaire, et supérieure de la jeunesse Bulgare, et d'exprimer nos regrets pour l'impossibilité dans laquelle nous sommes d'entourer de mêmes égards la diatribe

qu'il a publiée contre nous. En effet, il ne faut qu'un coup d'œil sur le Budget des dépenses et recettes de la province, pour voir et comprendre que les compensations qui ont été faites aux écoles appartenant aux minorités, sont insignifiantes et quelque chose comme rien. L'organe semi-officiel qui ne veut pas penser comme nous, et il a raison, a dénaturé l'article que nous avons publié là-dessus, et a encore analysé les chiffres que nous y avons donnés juste comme il aurait dû faire pour bien servir ses intérêts. Il nous reproche, par exemple, d'avoir porté la somme affectée aux frais de la Direction de 162,000 à 500,000 piastres, et de n'avoir pas soufflé mot sur la somme de 350,000 piastres votées pour l'inspection des écoles.

Nous lui répondons que le reproche qu'il veut nous faire ne saurait point nous atteindre. Au chiffre de 500,000 piastres que nous avons mis à la charge de la Direction de l'Instruction Publique, nous avions, par amour pour l'abréviation, ajouté les frais affectés à l'inspection des écoles, et nous avions même, afin d'arrondir les nombres, retranché la somme de 12,600 piastres.

Quant au second grief d'avoir retranché sciemment un zéro de la somme de 1,000,000 piastres que l'Assemblée Provinciale a votées pour l'entretien des écoles primaires et secondaires, et d'avoir porté cette somme à 100,000 piastres, nous n'en aurions dit mot pour l'édification d'un journalisme fait dans les coulisses du Conak: assez d'ajouter pour l'information de nos lecteurs que ce chef d'accusation s'explique par une erreur d'impression qui ne se trouve point dans la partie Grecque du journal, où le mot "million" est inscrit en toutes lettres.

Le reste des arguments dont l'organe semi-officiel se sert pour soutenir sa cause sont tout aussi mauvais. Au lieu de faire tant de détours n'aurait-il pas été mieux de parler un peu plus ouvertement de 5,000,000 piastres, et de constater en des termes précis, la part qui revient aux Ecoles Turques et Grecques?

Tel notre confrère se retranche derrière un silence significatif. Hasarderiez-vous à lui demander l'explication de son mutisme, il vous répondrait que les Députés Bulgares, réunis en session, n'avaient pas, eux aussi, cru propre d'en parler, pas plus que de répondre à l'interpellation faite par un Député Grec à ce sujet.

Mais ce n'est pas tout. L'organe semi-officiel cite l'Article 349 du Statut Organique pour nous montrer que la distribution du denier public affecté comme subvention pour les écoles des diverses communautés, a été faite en stricte conformité avec le susdit article: exemple, dit-il, le Département de Bourgas, et en effet, il nous donne le Tableau réparti comme suit:—

	Piastres.
Bulgares	16,000
Grecs	11,000
Turcs	9,000
Israélites	1,500
Total	37,500

Nous laissons au lecteur de nous dire si, dans une partie de la province où les Bulgares ne comptent pas plus de 16,000, et les Grecs et les Turcs plus de 60,000 habitants, la distribution dont il s'agit est conforme au Statut Organique.

Encore, n'avons-nous jamais consenti à traiter cette question sous le point de vue matériel. Si les Bulgares croient que c'est dans leur intérêt national de ne pas accorder aux écoles des minorités ce qui leur revient, les communautés Grecques de la Roumélie Orientale qui ont su subvenir aux frais de leurs écoles, et sans les subventions votées par l'Assemblée Provinciale, les entretenir dans un état florissant n'en auront pas à subir une perte énorme.

Il ne déplairait point aux Grecs de voir dépenser des sommes dix et vingt fois plus grandes pour éclairer et instruire le peuple Bulgare. "Les nations les plus civilisées sont celles qui ont le plus d'écoles," a dit, dans une réunion littéraire Grecque, le Général Ignatiew, et en effet, ce serait répéter une banalité que d'avancer que la civilisation chez un peuple marche de conserve avec la multiplication de ses écoles.

Nous voudrions pourtant que ces institutions répondent au but pour lesquelles elles sont créées, qu'il n'y ait point de ces idées qui nous viennent de la Sainte Russie; que la jeunesse y trouve une instruction solide; qu'on n'y enseigne point qu'Alexandre le Grand a été Bulgare; qu'Aristote serait quelque chose comme de Tatar-Bajardjik; que les œuvres immortelles des auteurs Grecs sont des traductions des ouvrages Bulgares dont les originaux ont été brûlés par les Grecs; que Constantinople est la capitale de l'Empire Bulgare dont le plus beau port de mer serait Salonique. Est-ce besoin de dire que de pareilles institutions sont plus que nuisibles à l'œuvre de la civilisation qui veut la concorde et l'harmonie entre les nations et l'apaisement des passions entre les peuples?

Les Grecs, répétons-nous de dire, qui aiment à ce que tout le monde ait sa place sous le soleil, verraient avec plaisir tous sacrifices faits dans le sens d'une vraie instruction.

Voilà pourquoi ils ne se décourageraient pas pour le côté matériel de la question. Ce qui leur importe, à eux, c'est de sauvegarder un droit qui ne s'achète pas moyennant espèces, et c'est là la raison pour laquelle ils ne cesseront de réclamer jusqu'à ce qu'on leur fasse connaître la part qui leur revient de 5,000,000 votés par l'Assemblée pour l'instruction des diverses nationalités de la province.

No. 185.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 266.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, May 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article which has this day appeared in the "Maritza" commenting upon a rumoured collective intervention in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire.

The real object of this article appears, however, to be to assert the claims of an alleged Bulgarian majority in Macedonia, to a preponderating share in the self-government which that province is destined to receive in virtue of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{15}{27}$, 1880.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Mai, 1880.

LES derniers télégrammes arrivés d'Occident démontrent clairement que les Cabinets Européens viennent de tomber plus ou moins d'accord sur la nécessité absolue d'une action internationale énergique en Orient, destinée à amener la Sublime Porte à prendre en sérieuse considération les obligations qui lui sont imposées par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin. Une dépêche du "Standard," datée de Vienne, assure que M. le Baron Haymerle aurait déclaré à Mr. Goschen, le nouvel Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople, que le but du Traité de Berlin était de régénérer la Turquie et non de la détruire, et que conséquemment on doit exercer une pression dans des limites raisonnables.

Cette déclaration ambiguë ne nous semble guère de nature à satisfaire ou à rassurer les hommes d'Etat Ottomans, qui ont déjà eu l'occasion d'apprécier la façon dont l'Autriche-Hongrie leur a "régénéré" la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine. Une dépêche privée qui a été reçue Mardi dans notre ville indique beaucoup moins énigmatiquement le genre de pression que l'Europe se prépare à exercer sur la Turquie en vue de mettre fin à la situation intolérable qui règne dans quelques-uns de ses vilayets. D'après ce télégramme, le "Times" affirmerait que, sur la proposition de l'Angleterre, la France prendrait l'initiative d'adresser une Circulaire aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à l'effet de les engager à couper court, par une intervention collective, aux lenteurs que la Porte met à améliorer le sort de ses malheureuses provinces d'Europe, et cela en établissant dans ces éparchies des Gouvernements autonomes placés sous la surveillance de Commissions Internationales, comme cela a été pratiqué pour la Roumélie Orientale. Un détail qui n'est pas sans avoir sa signification pour expliquer le caractère que cette intervention collective pourrait assumer au besoin, c'est que le "Times" ajoute, en guise de commentaire, qu'il espère que les canons des Dardanelles n'oseront pas tirer sur le pavillon de l'Europe unie.

On n'est certes pas tenu de croire à la stricte véracité de ces assertions; mais il n'est pas non plus permis de douter aujourd'hui que, par la faute de son administration et par l'aveuglement opiniâtre de ses gouvernants, l'Empire Ottoman est tombé dans un état de décomposition qui nécessite d'urgence une cure radicale. Il est même à penser que des amputations seront jugées indispensables, et qu'elles seront particulièrement pratiquées dans des parties du corps de "l'homme malade" qui nous touchent de très-près. Parmi elles il faut ranger en première ligne la Macédoine, dans laquelle,

grâce aux intrigues du clergé et des sylologues Grecs et à la vénalité ou à l'ignorance des autorités Ottmanes, sinon Turques, la situation de nos compatriotes est devenue littéralement intenable depuis la dernière guerre. On pourrait même avancer que cette persécution systématique des Bulgares a été, peut-être, une des causes les plus puissantes de l'intervention Européenne actuelle,—laquelle ne tournera assurément pas à l'avantage de nos frères Macédoniens.

Il est effectivement hors de doute que le système de "self-government" qui sera forcément inauguré un jour dans la-dite province sera basé sur le principe de la majorité. Or, la majorité de la population de la Macédoine est Bulgare, et les événements ne tarderont pas à le prouver, comme ils l'ont déjà établi pour notre petit pays autonome, en dépit de tous les efforts faits et de l'argent dépensé dans le sens contraire. Il est néanmoins à croire que cette fois-ci l'Europe ne se laissera pas aussi aisément tromper qu'il y a deux ans, lorsque des brochures payées et des statistiques impudemment fausses étaient propagées dans l'unique but de démontrer que deux tiers de la Péninsule Balkanique étaient exclusivement habités par des Grecs. Si les témoignages des savants et des voyageurs impartiaux qui ont visité ces régions ne sont pas jugés dignes de foi, aujourd'hui comme alors, que des enquêtes sérieuses soient au moins faites! Elles établiront—on peut en avoir la ferme conviction—que sur le million d'hommes livrés à la merci du brigandage et de la corruption administrative et cléricale, dans l'ancien royaume de Philippe et d'Alexandre le Grand, plus de la moitié sont de nos congénères; qu'un quart est Musulman et Valaque et que, comme dans la Roumélie Orientale, les Grecs n'y forment qu'une infime et turbulente minorité.

No. 186.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 267.) *Philippopoli, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

IT is characteristic of the dilatoriness and negligence of the Porte that some of the provincial laws which have recently been promulgated by the Governor-General as having received the sanction of the Sultan, were in reality assumed to have acquired force of law by the mere efluxion of the period of two months allowed under Article 10 of the Organic Statute for His Majesty's rejection or approval of laws voted by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia.

This was the case more particularly in the matter of the law imposing a tax on real property.

One of the principal accusations made against M. Schmidt by the Provincial Assembly was his failure to make timely arrangements for the collection of that tax; and I have now learnt from a member of the Privy Council that the Assembly awaited with great anxiety the efluxion of the two months from the date on which the law had been submitted to the Porte before attacking M. Schmidt, whose defence under this head of the indictment against him might otherwise have been that he was not justified in actively preparing for the collection of a tax which had not been sanctioned by the Porte.

In respect to some of the laws which have been rendered executory on the assumption that they had acquired the tacit consent of the Sultan, I understand the Porte disputes the action thus taken by the Governor-General on the ground that his Excellency had failed to supply the explanations and documents which had been required of him during the examination of those laws at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 187.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 269.) *Philippopoli, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract from the "Philippoupolis" gives publicity to a rumour which has been for some time current, to the effect that the Bulgarian Deputies to the Provincial Assembly, or some other body of Bulgarian patriots, will hold a

meeting or Congress at Slivno towards the end of the present month, or early in June (o.s.).

I have been assured that the seat of the "Central Administration of the Gymnastic Societies of Southern Bulgaria has been transferred to Slivno in order to ensure greater secrecy for their proceedings; and it is therefore not improbable that a Congress such as was held in the same town, at a similar period last year, is now actually in contemplation.

The Governor-General has denied all knowledge of the convocation of such an Assembly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May 29, 1880.

NOUS apprenons qu'un Conseil dans lequel prendront part tous les patriotes exilités se réunira à Slivno vers la fin du présent mois. Nous croyons devoir rappeler à nos lecteurs que c'est cette même ville qui, le $\frac{17}{29}$ Mai de l'année dernière, a servi pour premier lieu de réunion aux Représentants de la Bulgarie du Sud, la place n'est pas mal choisie, aucune des Puissances Européennes n'y étant pas représentée.

No. 188.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 270.) *Philippopoli, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship in the form of an extract from the "Philippoupolis," the translation of a protest which was forwarded some months ago to the Porte by the Mussulman and Jewish Notables of Eski-Zaghra, in this province, who complain of the manner in which they have been despoiled of their property under an authorized plan for the reconstruction of that town.

There is ample confirmation of the injustice with which the protesting parties were treated in the letter addressed to me by an English traveller, and of which I transmitted a copy in my despatch No. 260 of the 20th September last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May $\frac{17}{29}$, 1880.

LE document que nous publions ci-bas a été envoyé, sous forme de protêt, à la Sublime Porte:—

"Nous, Soussignés, habitants d'Eski-Zaghra, sommes complètement ruinés par suite des derniers événements et des circonstances suivantes. Afin de construire un hôtel ("conak") pour le Gouvernement, faire un jardin public et exécuter quelques travaux de ville, les gens de l'autorité ont dressé un plan de ville qu'ils ont fait approuver par Aleko Pacha, le Gouverneur-Général. Le résultat a été la saisie et la destruction de nos propriétés: bazars, bezestins, magasins, bains, et mosquées consacrées au culte Musulman. On a fait de tout cela une chaussée pour la ville. Le Préfet lui-même a pris possession de nos terrains, restés vides par l'incendie ou par d'autres circonstances. Les ayant divisés en trois catégories, il y a mis les prix suivants: 2 piastres pour la première, 1 piastre pour la seconde, et 20 paras pour la troisième: le mètre a servi comme unité de mesure. Les maisons ont été, sans distinction, estimées à 660 et les boutiques à 64 mètres. On a encore décidé de composer de sixième maisons chaque quartier de la ville.

"Sur ce, on a mis aux enchères publiques les maisons et les boutiques, sans le consentement préalable des propriétaires. Le produit de la vente a été moitié donné aux

propriétaires et moitié gardé par la Préfecture. N'ayant pas le pouvoir de protester contre cette manière d'agir de l'autorité, nous sommes obligés de racheter nos propriétés vendues arbitrairement aux enchères publiques.

"Les personnes, qui ont des propriétés en ville et qui n'y travaillent pas, celles-là sont autorisées à acheter un terrain pour construire une maison. Les personnes qui, avec des propriétés, ont leurs occupations dans la ville, celles-là sont autorisées à acheter une maison et le terrain nécessaire pour se construire une boutique.

"Ceux qui, possédant des magasins et des boutiques, louent maintenant ces propriétés, ceux-là, s'ils ont un métier, sont autorisés à acheter des terrains. Il est d'usage parmi les Musulmans de construire des fontaines par esprit de charité et pour la commodité publique. Les eaux d'alimentation ayant été détournées, nous sommes maintenant obligés de construire de nouvelles fontaines. Les anciennes rues de la ville ont fait place à de nouvelles. On y a laissé l'espace nécessaire pour les besoins du marché, bazar. Avec tout cela il y avait des rues et des bazars et besoin n'était de les démolir pour en faire d'autres. Encore il nous semble que si l'on voulait réorganiser la ville, y faire des bazars, construire de nouvelles rues, on devrait nous faire justice, c'est-à-dire, nous indemniser pour les terrains et le propriétés qu'on nous a pris. Loin de tout cela, on nous a enlevé, sous nos propres yeux, nos écoles, nos medressés, nos tekés, nos cimetières pour disposer de la sorte et, nous privant ainsi de nos biens, nous laisser sans abri et sans secours. Nos mosquées et nos maisons qui avaient été respectées, ont été détruites. Le matériel a servi à la construction de nouveaux édifices. Aucun des Musulmans n'est maître de ses propriétés: les moyens de prendre ou de nous en assurer la possession nous manquent. Les terrains qui ont une superficie de 8,000 à 10,000 mètres carrés sont perdus pour leurs propriétaires. Ils n'en pourront posséder plus de 660 mètres. Nos propriétés, aliénées à 20 paras, nous sont maintenant vendues à 29 piastres le mètre. Nos avions des conduites d'eau, on nous les a enlevés de force.

"Nous nous perdons en conjectures de connaître la loi qui nous fait perdre sans retour nos immeubles et nos biens-fonds. Nous ne dégageons de tous ces agissements qu'une seule chose, c'est que l'autorité cherche à consommer notre ruine. Le Traité de Berlin ainsi que le Statut Organique disposent que chacun est maître de son bien et que tout le monde est égal devant la justice. Nous supplions donc qu'on nous fasse restituer nos propriétés, en faisant un nouveau plan ou en agissant de toute autre manière. Nous protestons contre le plan élaboré sans notre consentement et qui nous a fait perdre nos propriétés, seule et unique ressource, nous protestons également pour toutes les pertes que nous avons subies et que nous allons subir par la suite.

"Pendant notre absence on a loué nos boutiques et nos maisons à raison de 1,000 piastres par an. Au lieu de nous donner le loyer on nous demande à payer une indemnité de 2,000 piastres. Encore on a renouvelé les contrats de location pour nous en retarder la prise de possession autant que possible. La loi dispose que des engagements pris en dehors et sans le consentement d'une des parties contractantes sont nuls. Il s'ensuit qu'on aurait dû casser les contrats dont il s'agit immédiatement après notre retour. Nous prions humblement à ce qu'on répare les torts qu'on nous a faits et à ce qu'on nous dédommage de nos pertes. Nous prions aussi qu'une réponse écrite en Turc nous soit envoyée dans un délai de cinq à onze jours."

(Suivent 24 cachets des Notables d'Eski-Zaghra, Musulmans et Juifs.)

No. 189.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 271. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, May 29, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the 26th instant the Governor-General addressed to the Porte the telegram of which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy, on the subject of the recent outrages in the Aïdos Balkans.

His Excellency states that the militia of the Principality pursued into this province some Mussulman villagers by whom they had been attacked, burning four villages in Eastern Roumelia and carrying away eight prisoners.

The "other men called to their aid" are no doubt the "Bashi-Bazouks," or Bulgarian Gymnasts, who are reported by the Austrian Vice-Consul at Bourgas to have taken part in the burning and sacking of the Turkish villages, and they are probably the "reinforcements" mentioned by General Strecker, as reported in my despatch No. 252 of the 20th instant.

His Excellency is not able to state "how many persons belonging to those villages may have been hanged or sent to Provadi;" but he reports that one Mussulman was killed and some others wounded by unknown persons outside the town of Messemvria, the Greek inhabitants of which had from fear refused to receive the fugitives.

These regrettable facts were occasioned, Aleko Pasha states to the Porte, by the "mad attack of some Mussulman villagers," of the East Roumelian frontier, headed by two brigand Chiefs, who in their turn had been "incited by conspirators from within and without," with an object unknown to his Excellency.

This is certainly a most lamentable apology for the destruction of Mussulman villages in this province by the regular troops of the Principality, and for the further outrages which have undoubtedly been committed by those troops and their allies, the Bashi-Bazouks.

It is also inconceivable that the Governor-General should not have been in a position until the 26th instant to report to Constantinople the occurrence of outrages which were known to the foreign Consular Agents at Bourgas about a fortnight before that date.

His Excellency denied positively, on the 21st instant, that any Mussulman villages had been destroyed in this province, as alleged by those Agents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Aleko Pasha to the Porte.

(Télégraphique.)

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ Mai, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à votre dépêche du 12 courant. Comme je vous l'ai rapporté par mes dépêches précédentes les miliciens de Bulgarie avaient attaqué quelques villageois Musulmans de notre frontière, qui s'étaient réunis tambour battant, pour aller attaquer et déloger ces miliciens du poste de Belova, qu'ils étaient venus occuper comme appartenant à la Bulgarie.

Ensuite les miliciens et d'autres hommes appelés à leur secours ont poursuivi les assaillants, à tort sans doute, même en deçà de la frontière, où ils ont brûlé leurs villages au nombre de quatre, nommés: Lopotchlar, Naderlar, Youssouf Tchobandar, et Chediklar, et ont emmené huit prisonniers.

Je ne saurais vous dire combien de villages de la Bulgarie ont été ainsi brûlés aussi, et combien de personnes de ces villages ont pu être pendues ou envoyées à Provadi.

Quoi qu'il en soit de ces malheureux faits, les habitants de nos villages Musulmans environnants, ayant eu peur naturellement, se sont enfuis par-ci par-là, et un petit nombre d'entre eux est allé à Messemvria. Les habitants de cette ville, qui ne sont pas Bulgares, n'ayant pas voulu les recevoir pendant la nuit, par crainte, à ce qu'il paraît, qu'ils ne fussent de mauvaises gens, les fugitifs ont passé la nuit hors de la ville, et c'est alors que dans l'obscurité des gens inconnus ont tué un de ces malheureux et blessé d'autres.

Depuis, les autorités de Bourgas, de leur initiative et par mes ordres formels, se sont occupées et s'occupent de la recherche et de la poursuite des malfaiteurs, ainsi qu'à donner des soins, à fournir des moyens pécuniaires et autres pour le soulagement, la tranquillisation, et la réinstallation de ces fugitifs dans leurs foyers. Des mesures efficaces ont été prises en outre pour la poursuite des brigands, qui infestent ce Balcan, et pour en protéger les habitants.

Je répète que tout cela m'a ému profondément, mais après tout, ces faits regrettables ont été occasionnés par l'attaque insensée de quelques villageois Musulmans de notre frontière et il m'était difficile de la prévenir ou de l'empêcher.

Ces villageois ayant eu à leur tête le ci-devant Chef de brigands Tchoban Hassan et le Chef de brigands actuel, Baldji Eumer, et ceux-ci ayant été dernièrement travaillés par des conspirateurs venus de dehors et du dedans, je pense qu'ils ont agi sur l'instigation de ces ennemis de la tranquillité publique qui se cachent, mais qui travaillent toujours, je ne sais dans quel but. J'avais eu l'honneur déjà de vous dire quelques mots précédemment sur leur compte.

Quant aux villages de Kébir, Tchenqué, Lobochna, Sari-Kouranli et Belova, Djafer, Aïvadjik, ils sont au delà de notre frontière.

No. 190.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 272.)
Philippopoli, May 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from the "Maritza" and the "Philippoupolis," relating to the outrages committed by Bulgarian troops in the Aïdos Balkans.

Your Lordship will perceive that on the 25th instant the "Maritza" affirmed that only three villages had been burned, and that they were situated in Bulgaria. This statement was supported by an extract from the "Vakit," which, however, evidently only reproduced the erroneous information originally transmitted to the Porte by Aleko Pasha.

The article published yesterday in the same journal corrects to some extent that statement, and it is, in fact, based on a subsequent report addressed by the Governor-General to Constantinople, by telegraph, on the 26th instant.

The "Philippoupolis" of this date criticizes the attempts thus made by the Bulgarian organ to circumvent or suppress the truth in regard to the horrible proceedings in question.

It states, under reserve, that the Prefect of Bourgas was absent without leave at Varna at the time of their occurrence, and blames him for having kept the Central Government in ignorance for a period of fourteen days.

It is perfectly true, as alleged by the "Philippoupolis," that the Prefect in question was Secretary to the "Central Gymnastic Society of Southern Bulgaria" before his appointment to Bourgas.

It was, indeed, owing to the prominent position which he thus occupied that he was sent to Bourgas, a part of the province in which Pan-Bulgarian views were then being strongly opposed by a considerable Greek population, backed by the equally recalcitrant Mussulmans of the Balkan range.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

NOUS avons parlé, dans notre numéro du $\frac{4}{16}$ courant, des bruits qui avaient été répandus au sujet des prétendues atrocités Bulgares dans le département de Bourgas. Le "Vakit" s'est chargé de démentir ces bruits. Voici ce qu'il dit dans son numéro du $\frac{7}{19}$:—

"Les miliciens Bulgares, aidés par des bandes indisciplinées déclarant qu'elles voulaient exécuter le Traité de Berlin, ont attaqué les villages de Bebrova, de Djafer, et d'Ovadjik. Les habitants Musulmans de ces localités, au nombre de 200, ont essayé de leur résister et dans l'engagement qui s'en est suivi il y a eu plusieurs tués de part et d'autre. Les Bulgares ont incendié ensuite ces trois villages. Toute la population Musulmane de ce côté des Balkans est dans une extrême agitation et se retire en masse vers les frontières Ottomanes.

Le fait et que les villages de Bebrova, Djafer, et Aïvodjik appartiennent à la Principauté, dont les troupes, après les avoir occupés, ont été attaquées par une bande de Musulmans, ayant pour chef Tchoban Hassan, qui a tué deux soldats Bulgares et en a blessé quatre. C'est après cette attaque que les villages ont été brûlés. Tous les villages brûlés appartiennent à la Bulgarie, et les habitants, qui se sont réfugiés sur notre territoire, ont été assistés par notre Gouvernement, qui a accordé dans ce but un crédit de 20,000 piastres.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{16}{28}$, 1880.

NOUS avons reçu sur les derniers événements des Balkans d'Aïdos des renseignements qui ramènent cette échauffourée à ses véritables proportions, lesquelles

diffèrent, bien entendu, de celles qu'ont cherché à lui donner nos infatigables fabricants d'atrocités Bulgares.

D'après ces amateurs d'auto-da-fé, de pendaisons Musulmanes, et d'autres horreurs de ce genre, les Bachi-Bozouks Bulgares avaient investi neuf ou treize villages Turcs et massacré tout ce qu'ils avaient rencontré d'êtres humains, après avoir violé les femmes, pillé les maisons, &c.

Voici à quoi se réduisent ces racontars, d'après les sources d'informations les plus sûres et les plus dignes de foi:

Les soldats de la Principauté—car les faits se sont, après tout, passés plutôt en Bulgarie que dans la Roumélie Orientale—s'étaient vus obligés d'attaquer une grande troupe de paysans Musulmans armés, de la frontière, qui s'étaient réunis militairement pour aller déloger, à coups de feu, les susdits soldats du poste de Belova, que ceux-ci étaient venus occuper comme appartenant au territoire de la Principauté.

Dans les péripéties de ce combat, les soldats Bulgares ont dépassé la frontière, brûlé, dit-on, les villages des assaillants au nombre de quatre, nommés Zopotchular, Nardival, Youssouf Tchobanlar, et Guédikler, et emmené huit des insurgés ou des brigands avec eux.

C'est tout ce qui s'est passé sur l'extrême frontière de notre province. Quant aux résultats de la lutte sur le territoire Bulgare, nous n'avons pas encore de renseignements précis là-dessus.

Dans l'intervalle, il s'est passé, sur notre territoire, un incident regrettable qu'on n'a pas manqué nécessairement d'exploiter contre les autorités Roumélioles. Pendant le susdit combat, les habitants de nos villages Musulmans environnants ayant eu peur, se sont enfuis précipitamment dans toutes les directions, croyant que quelque grave danger les menaçait, et un certain nombre d'entre eux sont ainsi arrivés à Messemvria après le coucher du soleil. Les habitants de cette ville, qui, comme on ne l'a jamais contesté, ne sont pas Bulgares mais Grecs, ayant refusé de les recevoir pendant la nuit de crainte que ces hôtes inattendus fussent des mauvaises gens, les réfugiés ont dû passer la nuit hors de la ville, et c'est dans ces circonstances malheureuses que des coups de fusil ont été tirés par des inconnus, qu'un des fugitifs a été tué et trois autres blessés. On nous assure que les coupables, d'après le Procureur de Bourgas, seraient quelques Grecs de Messemvria.

Depuis, les autorités de Bourgas, aussi bien par leur propre initiative qu'à la siteu des ordres formels qui leur ont été expédiés, se sont occupés et s'occupent à rechercher les malfaiteurs, et à donner des soins et des secours de toute nature à ces pauvres gens. En même temps, des mesures ont été prises pour leur prompte réinstallation dans leur foyers, et des forces ont été envoyées, nous affirme-t-on, sur la frontière pour en protéger les habitants et pour donner la chasse aux brigands.

En définitive, tous ces malheurs ont dérivé de l'attaque insensée des paysans Musulmans de la frontière contre les troupes de la Principauté, et il y a beaucoup de raisons pour croire que ces perturbateurs, qui obéissent aux ordres du ci-devant Chef de brigands Tchoban Hassan, et du bandit actuel Baldji Emner, sont travaillés par des conspirateurs venus du dehors et du dedans, et qui ont un intérêt quelconque à troubler la tranquillité publique dans ces parages.

Des renseignements complémentaires que nous recevons au dernier moment sur les affaires de la frontière d'Aïdos annoncent que les "violences Bulgares," comme les appelle une dépêche Havas, ont été honteusement exagérées par certaine coterie en déconfiture, et cela en vue de produire une sensation anti-Bulgare en Europe. Il paraît que la lutte entre les assaillants Musulmans, commandés par des Chefs de brigands, et les soldats de la Principauté, il y a eu à peine quatre hameaux brûlés; le quatrième est même à moitié intact. Le total des masures incendiées de la sorte s'élève à cinquante. Actuellement la tranquillité est rétablie et la plupart des fugitifs des alentours.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 190.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of May 29, 1880.

NOTRE confrère de la "Maritza" dit que les villages, sis dans le Département de Bourgas et brûlés par des bandes de Bulgares, appartiennent à la Principauté de Bulgarie, et que les habitants éprouvés, s'étant réfugiés sur le territoire Rouméliote, ont été assistés par notre Gouvernement, qui a accordé dans ce but un crédit de 20,000 piastres.

* Print ends here.

Pour ce qui est de ce fond de secours nous n'avons aucun renseignement, aussi n'en dirons-nous rien. Ce à quoi nous tenons c'est l'obstination de l'organe semi-officiel de placer les villages en question hors du territoire Roumeliote, c'est-à-dire, dans la Bulgarie. Cela étant ainsi il ne saurait, prétend-il, avoir ni violation du territoire Roumeliote, ni des méfaits commis sur ce territoire de la part des malfaiteurs venus du côté de la Principauté voisine. Cette argumentation aurait été de mise tout autant que des renseignements authentiques faisaient défaut, et qu'on ne savait pas à quoi s'en tenir. Assurément nous ne pouvons par faire un crime à notre confrère de la négligence de M. Yancouloff, Préfet de Bourgas, à mettre quatorze jours entiers pour faire connaître au Gouvernement ces déplorables événements. Ce détail mérite d'être noté, et d'autant plus qu'il avait manqué de donner lieu à un malentendu bien désagréable. Mais laissons tout cela de côté pour revenir à notre sujet, et pour demander à notre confrère de la "Maritza" si, maintenant que la lumière est faite, il lui est permis de persister dans ses allégations pour cacher la vérité autour des villages détruits.

Nous espérons de ne pas nous attirer la colère de notre confrère si en nous appuyant sur des Rapports officiels, nous disons que de treize villages brûlés, il n'y qu'un seul qui appartienne à la Principauté voisine, et que les douze autres sont des villages Roumeliotes.

On dit, en outre, et nous donnons cette nouvelle sous toute réserve, que M. Yancouloff aurait entrepris son voyage à Varna sans la permission préalable du Gouvernement Central. La ponctualité n'entre pas, paraît-il, dans les habitudes de M. Yancouloff, actuellement Préfet de Bourgas, et ex-Secrétaire de M. le Dr. Stranseki, Président du Bureau Central des Sociétés de Gymnastique de la "Bulgarie du Sud."

No. 191.

Acting Consul Mouzzo to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Canea, Crete, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Governor-General of Crete, Photiades Pasha, intends to leave this for Constantinople on the 7th proximo. The reason for his Excellency's departure, I am led to believe, is the necessity for his personally representing to the Porte the necessity of putting into execution the decisions come to by the last General Assembly of the Cretans.

Everything in the island continues quiet. A fact worthy of remark is, that the tithes on the grain crops, farmed out by the local authorities, this year have brought in nearly double of those of last year. The prospects for the approaching oil-crop are also most favourable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MOAZZO.

No. 192.

Mr. Vivian to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 52.)
Berne, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Convention concluded between the Federal Council and the Government of Roumania on the 14th February last providing for the establishment of Consular officers within each other's territories, and defining their powers, attributes, and privileges.

This Convention will be submitted to the Federal Chambers for ratification at their approaching Session.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 193.

General Sir L. Simmons to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 9.)

Horse Guards, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter (in original) from M. le Marquis de la Ferronnays, dated the 6th instant, and also a tracing dated the 4th instant, having reference to the Turco-Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure in No. 193.

The Marquis de la Ferronnays to General Sir L. Simmons.

London, June 6, 1880.

My dear General,

M. LÉON SAY has instructed me to furnish you with a tracing of the frontier-line which I have studied and marked on the Austrian map according to M. de Freycinet's ideas. It runs on sheets L 15, L 14 and M 14 and N 14.

You will see that I have followed the left bank of the Kalamas, but I should have had no objection to follow the height on the right bank, such a river, as you very justly suggested yesterday, being no separation. The frontier comprises the entire basin of Lake Janina, the springs of the Arta with Metzovo (Mecovou) and Mount Zygos, the springs and basin of the Salamyrias and Xeraghis, and the region of the Olympus, with the small rivers on the coast up to Katerina.

Before you come to Metzovo you will see a small triangle marked by a dotted line; this is merely a suggestion to fit more exactly the shape of the ground. There is more difference between the two dotted lines to the east; the southernmost, ending at Skala, follows the ridge of the Olympus, and was proposed by me to the Ambassador after explaining to him the danger of leaving the Olympus so near to the frontier but out of it, which had been our first interpretation of the official despatches. However, this having been submitted to Paris, answer was given to inclose the whole of the Olympus and coast rivers up to the neighbourhood of Katerina—that is the northern line. M. Say has ordered me to mark both on my tracing.

He is to see Lord Granville to-morrow, after you have had an interview with his Lordship, and he is accordingly anxious that you should get our tracing in good time to make your observations about it to the Foreign Secretary, so I beg you will excuse the hasty way in which I have drawn it out.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) LA FERRONNAYS.

No. 194.

Musurus Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, June 9.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 7 Juin, 1880.

REÇU télégramme du 1er.

Un télégramme textuellement identique a été adressé par Lord Granville à Mr. Goschen, qui, à l'occasion de sa première audience, en a communiqué le contenu à Sa Majesté Impériale, à qui je n'avais pas encore eu le temps de soumettre la copie et la traduction du vôtre. Péniblement impressionnée de cette communication, Sa Majesté Impériale a demandé pendant l'audience si l'on entendait la tenir personnellement responsable, et dès le lendemain de l'audience elle a adressé, par son Premier Secrétaire, à l'Ambassadeur, une lettre par laquelle elle prie son Excellence de donner par écrit quelques explications sur les trois points suivants :—

1. Si par les mots "les limites territoriales de la suprématie de Sa Majesté Impériale ne seront pas resserrées au delà des conditions du Traité de Berlin, tant que cette suprématie n'est pas séparée de la sécurité et de la prospérité des populations," le Gouvernement Britannique entend que si la sécurité et la prospérité des populations dans une province de l'Empire Ottoman lui paraissaient comprises, ce fait seul entraînerait l'autonomie.

2. Si Sa Majesté Impériale peut compter que l'exécution des dispositions du Traité de

Berlin dans leur esprit aussi bien que dans leur lettre ne sera pas exclusivement en faveur des autres Puissances.

3. Si, en affirmant que, s'il n'était pas donné suite aux recommandations du Cabinet Britannique, la responsabilité retomberait tout entière à Sa Majesté Impériale, on entend que la Constitution de l'Empire admet cette responsabilité.

Le Premier Secrétaire termine sa lettre en ajoutant que Sa Majesté regrette vivement le retard de tout ce qui est relatif au Traité de Berlin, et qu'elle espère, dans cette circonstance, pouvoir compter sur l'équité et le concours amical et désintéressé du Gouvernement Britannique.

Comme Sa Majesté, croyant que le télégramme de Lord Granville a eu vue de la rendre personnellement responsable et d'écarter la responsabilité de ses Ministres, tient à recevoir directement de Mr. Goschen une réponse aux trois points ci-dessus indiqués, afin qu'il soit possible à Sa Majesté d'aviser immédiatement au concours à prêter par son Gouvernement à la prompte exécution des dispositions encore pendantes du Traité de Berlin, son Excellence a télégraphié à Lord Granville pour demander des instructions sur l'importance de rassurer Sa Majesté Impériale en ce qui concerne les intentions sincèrement amicales du Cabinet actuel de la Reine envers la personne de Sa Majesté et les droits et intérêts de son Empire. Comme je vous l'ai annoncé par mon télégramme du 28 Mai, j'avais dissipé tout doute à cet égard; mais l'expression "tout-puissant," et la teneur de la réponse que vous a donnée sa Seigneurie ont fortement préoccupé Sa Majesté; de plus, les ennemis de l'Angleterre se plaisent à donner différentes interprétations à la déclaration rapportée par les journaux, que l'Angleterre n'a pas un intérêt spécial à l'existence de l'Empire Ottoman.

Sa Seigneurie ignore peut-être que Sa Majesté ne donne aucun Iradé, n'ordonne aucune mesure si ce n'est sur l'avis écrit de son Conseil des Ministres, et les procès-verbaux des Conseils de Ministres conservés dans les archives attestent cette vérité.

Dès lors, notre auguste Maître ne peut pas comprendre pourquoi on veut le tenir personnellement responsable et exonérer ses Ministres, qui seuls sont responsables envers Sa Majesté et envers le pays.

Sa Majesté est douée d'une haute intelligence; elle est soucieuse du maintien de ses droits de souveraineté, et s'est montrée toujours ferme sur ce point; le bien-être et la régénération de son Empire sont l'objet constant de sa sollicitude; elle désire sincèrement être dans les meilleurs rapports avec le nouvel Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, sur l'esprit conciliant et les bonnes dispositions duquel j'ai donné à Sa Majesté les informations les plus rassurantes.

Enfin, elle tient avant tout à rendre de plus en plus intimes les rapports d'amitié qui existent entre l'Angleterre et l'Empire Ottoman, et à écarter tout sujet de mésintelligence.

Sa Majesté appréciera tout ce que vous ferez à cette occasion auprès de Lord Granville pour l'accomplissement de ce vœu ardent de notre gracieux Souverain.

No. 195.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 73.) *Filibé, June 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has appointed Commission of Inquiry into Aïdos Balkan outrages. It is composed of Colonel Borthwick, probably as President, of Governor-General's Hungarian Secretary, of C. Zech, Procureur of Bourgas, of a Bulgarian militia officer, of Matheoff, a Bulgarian Secretary, and of two Turks not yet named. Commission leaves Friday.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 196.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 73.) *Vienna, June 9, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador has communicated to Baron Haymerle a telegram from his Government stating that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had proposed the collective inquiry into the condition of the Mahommedans in Bulgaria and Eastern

Roumelia. They consider that such a step would cast an injurious suspicion on the Bulgarian and Eastern Roumelian Governments, and that the facts should be better ascertained before it was adopted.

After this intimation Baron Haymerle considers that the course proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 140 would be preferable to a collective inquiry, and he will authorize, but without ordering, the Austrian Minister to send a member of his Mission to Eastern Roumelia if, after communicating with Her Majesty's Ambassador, he thinks it desirable.

You may not have been in favour of extending a collective inquiry beyond the question of the villages, thinking that too wide a field might be opened by carrying it further.

He asks me whether I could tell him precisely what was the information Her Majesty's Government wished to obtain, and I said that I imagined that they desired to be satisfied respecting the correctness of the Consular reports.

No. 197.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9, 1 P.M.*)

(No. 51. Private and Confidential.) *Berlin, June 9, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE HOHENLOHE tells me that Prince Bismarck would be glad to let the French Government take the initiative in proposing the new Greek frontier in the Conference, since they did so in the Congress. He wishes to know whether Her Majesty's Government would have any objection to this course.

No. 198.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9, 3 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 9, 1880, 2·30 P.M.*

MUSURUS PASHA has been charged by Sultan to inform me that Kadri Pasha would be Prime Minister, and Abeddin Pasha Minister for Foreign Affairs. Kadri was till now Minister of Commerce and Agriculture.

No. 199.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 1. Conference.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1880, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram No. 51, you may tell Prince Hohenlohe that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to leave the initiative to France.

No. 200.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 11·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOU should now communicate to the Prince of Montenegro the new project for cession of territory.

Austrian Government think this should be done at once.

The terms of the arrangement have been published substantially correctly in a St. Petersburgh newspaper.

No. 201.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 225.)
Foreign Office, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram from Musurus Pasha, which reports an interview he had with the Sultan in order to explain to His Majesty the policy of Her Majesty's Government.† This telegram was communicated to me by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and in the despatch to Mr. Goschen, of which I also inclose a copy,‡ you will find recorded the language I held to Musurus Bey on receiving the communication he was instructed to make to me.

I have to request that your Excellency will communicate to the Government to which you are accredited the two documents which are inclosed in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 202.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 2. Conference.)
Foreign Office, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reply to your telegram No. 51 of to-day, I have to state to your Excellency that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to leave to that of France the initiative in proposing the new Greek Treaties in the Conference, and they are glad that in this matter they have anticipated the wish of the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 203.

Memorandum by Sir L. Simmons on Proposal of French Government in a Note Verbale of the 6th June, 1880.

M. WADDINGTON, in the sitting of Congress of the 5th July, 1878, Protocol No. 13,§ in introducing the resolution relative to the Greek frontier, in common with the First Plenipotentiary of Italy, described it as "a general line indicating to Turkey the measure of the intentions of Europe, and to Greece the limits beyond which she cannot be allowed to go."

The indication so given was that the rectifications of the frontiers in Thessaly and Epirus "might follow the Valley of the Salamyrias (the ancient Peneus) on the side of the Ægean Sea, and that of the Kalamas on the side of the Ionian Sea."

In the preliminary correspondence which has led to the Conference now about to assemble at Berlin, Lord Salisbury in his letter of the 17th February, 1880, in reference to the vagueness of an expression used by M. de Freycinet in his communication of the 11th February, 1880, says that the words of M. de Freycinet, "taken strictly, would permit any four Powers on the Commission to recommend the transfer of the whole of Turkey in Europe to the Kingdom of Greece, if they thought it preferable in the interest of the two Powers; and it would then be the duty of the Powers constituting the minority to support that recommendation:

"In our view, it would be incumbent on the Commission to adhere in its decision to the general proportion of territorial advantages indicated in the Protocol of Berlin, and not to depart from it to any important extent. We should desire to fix, with great liberality, the scope of its powers, but we could not leave out of sight that they take their origin from the 13th Protocol, and must be exercised in the spirit and with the views which dictated the course of the Plenipotentiaries on that occasion."

In reply, M. de Freycinet, on the 20th February, wrote as follows:—

"Nous croirions répondre d'une manière satisfaisante à la véritable pensée du Gouvernement de la Reine en admettant avec lui que les Commissaires recevraient pour instructions d'interpréter le 13e Protocole loyalement et de bonne foi."

* Also to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.
† No. 194. ‡ No. § "Turkey No. 39 (1878)," page 196.

It would appear, therefore, that "the measure of the intentions of Europe" and "the limits beyond which Greece cannot be allowed to go" must be found within the Valleys of the Salamyrias and Kalamas, and that the work of the Conference in rectifying the frontiers of Thessaly and Epirus is to find a line within those valleys, and extending across the strip of territory which intervenes between them formed by the upper part of the Valley of the Arta.

The French proposal in the *note verbale* of the 7th June, on the side of Epirus, is to follow the course of the River Kalamas to its source, but pointing out the objections to making a fordable river a boundary says, with respect to that part of the basin of the Kalamas which lies to the north of the river, that although the *letter* of M. de Freycinet's proposal does not include it, the *spirit* of his trace—which is to take watersheds as boundaries—would include it in Greece.

On the side of Thessaly, M. de Freycinet includes the whole basin of the Salamyrias (Peneus) and all its tributaries† within the territory to be ceded to Greece, and adds the basins of six minor rivers, all named in the Austrian Map, besides other smaller streams which flow direct into the sea.

Thus, the whole of Olympus would be included in Greece, the avowed object being to give the command of the Dimitrios-Petra Pass to Greece for military reasons which, if applied in other points of the frontier, might be used to extend the Kingdom of Greece still more. The objections to the extension of Greece north of Olympus are—

1. That it is an entire departure from the letter and spirit of the Protocol of Berlin, and sets aside the principle of interpreting that Protocol "loyalement et de bonne foi." If the basis of the Protocol be departed from, there is nothing to prevent a vote being taken to include all Macedonia up to Salonica, and even beyond it, in Greece.

2. The frontier to the north, as traced by M. de Freycinet, will bring Greece into Macedonia, and will be difficult for either country to guard, whereas, by following the watershed of the basin of the Xerix, the summit of Olympus is gained, which, for several miles, constitutes an impassable barrier, whence a line could easily be drawn by one of the almost impassable ravines which run down from its summit to the sea.

Such a line would be completely easy to guard, and therefore would afford a greater probability of preventing border troubles than the line to the north. It is true it would include some of the small streams to the north of the Salamyrias which do not flow into that river, but from the configuration of the ground, all to the south of Olympus may reasonably be described as in the basin of that river, whereas none to the north can by any possible interpretation be included in it.

The French military attaché stated he had drawn the northern line inclosing Olympus in compliance with telegraphic instructions received from M. de Freycinet, but that he himself agreed in the reasons against it, as stated above. He added, however, that the Greeks now contended that the new frontier ought to extend still further to the north to Cape Atherida.

Between the basins of the Kalamas and Salamyrias, the line proposed by M. de Freycinet, follows the extreme limit of the basin of the Kalamas, and of that of the upper part of the Arta.

The importance of this intervening strip of territory will be at once apparent when the conformation of the adjoining territory is considered.

In the knot of mountains in its immediate neighbourhood, known as the Lakmos mountains,* five of the principal rivers of ancient Greece have their sources—the Aspropotamos (Achelous), Voroussa (Aous), and the Arta (Arethou)—which discharge themselves to the west into the Adriatic and the Salamyria (Peneus), and Vistriksa (Haliacmon), which discharge themselves to the east into the Ægean. At the town of Metzovo, which is within the basin of the Arta, roads converge which lead from Albania, Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus. The military importance of the position included in this strip of territory which intervenes between the valleys of the Kalamas and the Salamyria is self-evident, and round it centres the interest of the question from a military point of view.

Whichever Power possesses the town and district of Janina, whether Turkey or Greece, that district would become almost untenable if the Metzovo district were held adversely by the other.

If Turkey hold Janina, the possession of the passes round Metzovo by Greece would cut off the chief line of communication for the Turks from Macedonia to Janina; if, on the contrary, Greece held Janina, the possession of the passes by Turkey would close the

* Michilereon, Kamelia, Minea, Mavrolongos, Mavrouci, Krains.
† See coloured maps showing river basins.

road from Thessaly to Janina. The possession of these passes by either party is, therefore, of the highest strategical importance.

The line as drawn in the trace sent by the French Military Attaché,* dated the 4th June, includes within the territory to be ceded to Greece near Metzovo a portion of the basin of the Haliacmon, which appears, as in the case of the northern line near Olympus, to be beyond the limits of the territory brought under consideration by the 13th Protocol. The French Military Attaché informs me that this strip of land was included by him in the tracing as being in accordance with M. Waddington's instructions to inclose Mount Zygos within the territory to be ceded to Greece.† This small divergence from the watershed would, I conceive, cause irritation to the Turks, and increase the difficulty of guarding the frontier in peace, and, therefore, the probabilities of border disturbances. Generally, the proposed line divides the basin of the Kalamas, giving about two-thirds to Greece and one-third to Turkey, but still the line may be considered as following the Valley of the Kalamas, and therefore not at variance with the Protocol; but on the side of Thessaly the line follows the watershed of the basin of the Salamyria, and not the valley, and cannot, therefore, be said to conform strictly to the 13th Protocol.

A decision to cede Janina to Greece would preclude the possibility of any concession to Turkey on the side of Epirus to compensate for the cession of the entire basin of the Salamyria to Greece.

The objections to making the "thalweg" of the Kalamas the boundary are not confined to those stated in the *note verbale*, but I find that though stores are imported from the sea to Janina viâ Prevesa, the shortest route is that viâ Sayadhas, opposite Corfu, a few miles north of the Kalamas, the road from Janina to it being to a great extent on the right or northern side of the river, and in what would remain Turkish territory if the new French line be adopted. It appears to me that this arrangement would tend to create difficulties, and, in fact, that it will be almost impossible for the Turks to govern the district of Philiates with the Greeks on the opposite side of the Kalamas, and in possession of Janina.

By the cession of territory to Greece up to the boundary now proposed by the French, the accession of population to Greece may be taken approximately as follows:—

Epirus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	245,000
Thessaly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	305,000
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	550,000

(Signed) SIMMONS.

June 10, 1880.

No. 204.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 9, 1880, 10·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 138.

Baron Haymerle thinks that the new frontier arrangement ought at once to be proposed to the Prince of Montenegro and accepted by him before the Porte is asked to agree to it.

He considers the Prince free to accept or reject it (though he fully believes in his acceptance), while the Porte can only reject it upon undertaking to carry out the Corti arrangement, by which it is still bound.

As the secret of the new scheme has not been well kept, he sees no objection to its being mentioned to the Turkish Government, without their acceptance being asked till that of Montenegro is given.

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* Coloured green on map herewith.

† The French Military Attaché has since withdrawn the line to the north, and adopted the watershed near Zygos, with M. Say's concurrence.—(See note attached.)

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 9, 1880, 10·30 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE has come to an agreement with the Russian Government about the Dobrudscha frontier, which will be at once submitted to the English Cabinet [*sic*].

According to this arrangement the frontier will run along the east side of the high road between Silistria and Arab-Tabia, which will remain in Roumanian territory, while the road will be Bulgarian.

No. 206.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10, 9·50 A.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 9, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegrams Nos. 4 and 5—

Any attempt to connect the Southern with the Northern Albanian question I am sure would only wreck the prospects of latter without advancing those of the former. The two should be kept entirely separate. There are no Chiefs or delegates here from South Albania, but the Committee lately received a letter from [group wrong] approving its conduct, and saying it would be imitated in the South. I suspect the latter had an Ottoman or perhaps Italian origin.

I believe that North Albania is ripe for self-government.

North-east Albania, roughly comprising Ipek and Kalkandelen, and Middle Albania, roughly comprising Elbassan, Argyrocastro, and any part not annexed to Greece, could probably be satisfied with a slight modification of the present vilayet system until the time came for them to decide whether their interests drew them south or northwards.

By not attempting too much at first I believe that the foundation would be laid for the South Albanians up to Argyrocastro to join Greece, and for those of Middle and North-east Albania to unite with the Province of Scutari.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 207.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 10, 1880.

THE Municipality of Calymnos telegraphs as follows, June :—

"Pirates hardis nombreux pillent, ravagent villages d'Asie Mineure vis-à-vis Calymnos menaçant cette île; nous ne pouvons nous défendre; population partie pour pêche éponge; entièrement découragés; Gouvernement sait tout; négligence de sa part; désespérés; demandons votre assistance."

No. 208.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 10, 1880.

MY No. 48.

I am confidentially informed that the German Emperor has seen the map of the new frontier proposed by your Lordship for Montenegro, and fully approves of the proposal.

Prince Hohenlohe, who understands that all the Powers have now agreed to it, asks me how your Lordship proposes to carry it into execution.

No. 209.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

YOU should concert with your colleagues as to communicating to the Porte the proposed new arrangements respecting the Montenegrin frontier.

No. 210.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies, except Constantinople.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

ASK the Government to which you are accredited to give to their Representative at Constantinople instructions similar to my telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 59 of to-day, respecting Montenegrin frontier.

No. 211.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 64.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR telegraphic despatch No. 11 of the 3rd instant, reporting what took place at your official and private audiences with the Sultan, has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that the language you held on that occasion is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 212.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 66.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880.

Sir,

SIR HENRY LAYARD has informed me, by his despatch No. 532 of the 21st ultimo, that the Servian Minister having applied to him to assist him in urging upon the Porte the early conclusion of the Convention for completing the railway communication with the Principality, his Excellency had represented to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the importance of settling this question, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the steps taken by Sir Henry Layard.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 213.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 70.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu,* with extracts from a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, announcing the departure for Constantinople of Wessel Bey, an influential Muhommedan Albanian, who is stated to be regarded as the leader of the Albanian movement in Epirus.

Consul Reade is assured that it is owing to a summons from the Palace that Wessel Bey has gone to Constantinople, and I leave it to your Excellency's discretion to decide whether you should make any observation to the Sultan with regard to the movements of this influential Chieftain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

* Consul Reade, Confidential, May 27.

No. 214.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 650.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 444 of the 2nd instant, and I approve of the explanations which you have given to M. de Freycinet, as therein reported, in regard to the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the Conference of Ambassadors to be held at Berlin on the Greek Frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 215.

Earl Granville to Vice-Consul Gardner.

(No. 1. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1880.

MR. ACTING CONSUL LYALL informs me that he learns from you that an enceinte of forts, redoubts, and batteries is being constructed round Batoum, and that a circular line of railway is being laid down to transport the material.

I have to instruct you to endeavour to obtain further details respecting these work, and to send your report home by the first safe opportunity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 216.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Athens, May* 31, 1880.

M. TRICOUPI read to me to-day a telegram which he had received from the King from Paris. His Majesty stated that he had been informed by M. Grévy that it was the intention of the French Government to insist on the cession to Greece of the town of Janina, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty also had an interview with M. Gambetta, whose views were even more favourable to Greece than ever. Both the latter and M. Grévy declared themselves confident of a majority in the proposed Conference at Berlin, which would support the cession of Janina to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 217.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Athens, June* 2, 1880.

I INFORMED the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day of the determination of the Powers not to call upon this country or Turkey to send Representatives to the Conference at Berlin.

In reply, M. Tricoupi told me that it was the intention of his Government to send M. Brailas, one of the Delegates for Greece at the recent Conferences at Constantinople for the settlement of the frontier question, at once to Berlin to represent the claims of Greece at the approaching Conference in that capital.

His Excellency added that M. Brailas would be attended by an engineer officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 218.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 251A.) *Rome, June 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

I LOST no time in informing the Italian Government after the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 88, that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared for the Conference meeting at Berlin as soon after the 15th as may suit the convenience of the other Powers; and I was informed this day by M. Cairoli that the Italian Government would be ready to take part in the Conference by the 15th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 219.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 260.) *Rome, June 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday morning your Lordship's telegram No. 100, recording what is stated in a telegram, dated last Wednesday, from Lord Odo Russell, to the effect that the German Government will not send out the invitations to the Conference at Berlin until formally and officially requested to do so by the mediating Powers in virtue of the Berlin Treaty.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 101, stating that a note had been sent to Count Münster asking him to suggest to the German Government that they should invite the mediating Powers to confer at Berlin on the Greek question, reached me at the same time as well as your Lordship's telegram No. 99, recording that sent to Lord Odo Russell, stating that the 16th will suit Her Majesty's Government as the date of the first meeting.

I called yesterday at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for the purpose of giving the above information, but was not fortunate enough to find either the Minister, Count Maffei, or the director of the Political Department.

I therefore wrote a private note to Count Maffei, acquainting him with the substance of what I had heard from your Lordship, and asking whether the Italian Government had received or made any similar communications.

This morning I have received Count Maffei's reply, stating that he believed the German Chargé d'Affaires would communicate to-day or to-morrow the official invitation to the Conference, and that the Italian Government will accept the 16th for the first meeting.

Count Maffei adds, in reply to a further inquiry of mine, that the officer to assist Count de Launay, who is to represent the Italian Government at the Conference, has not yet been selected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 220.

Tewfik Bey, Turkish Minister at Athens, to Osman Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, June 11.)

Athènes, le 11 Mai, 1880.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre, sous ce pli, à votre Excellence, copie de deux notes que M. Tricoupi vient de m'adresser sur le brigandage.

Votre Excellence relèvera de la lecture de ces deux communications que le Gouvernement Hellénique nie catégoriquement la formation sur le territoire Grec d'aucune des bandes de brigands qui désolent nos provinces limitrophes. Et cependant il résulte des renseignements que me fournissent, et nos Consuls de la frontière et nos Commandants militaires, que les bandes de brigands se forment et s'organisent en Grèce pour passer ensuite en Turquie.

A l'appui de ce qui précède, j'adresse ci-joint à votre Excellence une lettre du Commandant militaire d'Arta à notre Consul à Caravassera, et deux exposés en Grec

que notre Consul à Lamia a fait parvenir au Mudir de Domoco, en Thessalie, sur cette question.

Les pièces précitées ne constituent qu'une bien faible partie des informations que je reçois journellement, qui s'accordent toutes à établir en Grèce le foyer et le point de départ du brigandage.

En me fondant donc sur ces données, je n'ai cessé de faire auprès du Cabinet d'Athènes des démarches et des représentations réitérées, en vue d'obtenir la cessation d'un état de choses qui compromet gravement la sécurité publique en Epire et en Thessalie. Malheureusement le Gouvernement du Roi Georges non-seulement n'a jamais voulu prendre en sérieuse considération aussi bien mes notes que mes communications verbales et relatives, mais s'est même constamment appliqué à rejeter sur nous toute la responsabilité de cette situation.

Tel est le but que se proposent les deux Circulaires que M. Tricoupi a dernièrement adressées aux Représentants Hellènes à l'étranger concernant le brigandage, Circulaires dont il m'avait formellement démenti l'envoi, et que pourtant, d'après mes renseignements, ont été réellement transmises aux différents Agents du Royaume en Europe, avec l'ordre de s'y baser pour faire ressortir la nécessité de finir la question Grecque.

En soumettant ces faits à la haute appréciation de votre Excellence, je la prie de vouloir bien me munir de ses instructions sur ce point.

J'ai, &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

M. Ayop Eram to Moutzo Bey.

(Traduction.) *Lamia, le 16 Avril, 1880.*

J'AI reçu votre lettre en date du 14 courant, et je vous en remercie.

Je m'étonne qu'aucun détachement n'ait pu rencontrer les bandes qui ont franchi la frontière pour commettre des actes de brigandage sur le sol Ottoman, et dont je vous ai entretenu.

Il est, en effet, sûr et certain que depuis lors les premiers quarante hommes se sont mis en route. Quant à Yorghi Psaltaki, qui, ainsi que je vous l'ai écrit, attendait un guide Valaque, il n'avait encore pu partir jusqu'à hier. Ce Valaque, nommé Costi Perleguini, étant arrivé, le susdit Psaltaki est parti aujourd'hui avant l'aube, avec les autres, au nombre de cinquante hommes en tout.

D'après mes informations, ils se sont dirigés du côté d'Aspropotamo. Veuillez, par conséquent, prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que cette bande n'échappe pas à la poursuite.

Je vous annonce en outre que, d'après mes informations, il y a à Domoco des voleurs de bétail dont l'un est surtout très-fin. J'ai offert £ T. 2 à celui qui me dira son nom. Ils ont volé du bétail également sur le territoire Ottoman, mais ceux qui m'en ont informé ignorent où il est caché.

(Signé) AYOP ERAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

M. Ayop Eram to Moutzo Bey.

(Traduction.)

Monsieur, *Lamia, le 9 Avril, 1880.*

FAISANT suite à ma lettre d'avant-hier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que d'après mes informations d'hier le nommé Georges Psaltaki, après avoir fait viser son passeport en ce Consulat, est parti, il y a quelques jours, pour Domoco, où il a rencontré le brigand Dedoussi, qui a fait sa soumission, et dont il a reçu £ T. 20, on ne sait trop en quel but.

Etant prévenu de ces faits, vous n'aurez qu'à suivre secrètement les traces de ces deux individus, en feignant d'ignorer ce qui s'est passé, afin de découvrir si le susdit Dedoussi, sous les dehors d'un bon citoyen, soutient des perturbateurs.

D'après ce que j'ai appris, le susdit Psaltaki, ne connaissant pas bien les chemins, attendait un Valaque, originaire du pays, pour lui servir de guide. Je n'ai pas pu

apprendre le nom de ce dernier; si j'y parviens, je ne manquerai pas de vous faire savoir.

(Signé) AYOP ERAM, *Consul.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

The Commandant of Arta to the Turkish Consul at Caravassera.

Le 7 Avril, 1880.

(Traduction.)

MON départ pour Janina et mon court séjour en cette ville ont été la cause que j'ai suspendu pour quelques jours ma correspondance. Etant à présent de retour vous pouvez être sûr que je vous tiendrai au courant de tout ce qui se passe.

Je crois devoir vous annoncer qu'il se trouve sur la frontière dans un endroit appelé Floryani un corps de garde Hellène qui, soutenu par ses sous-officiers, exerce le brigandage sur une vaste échelle dans notre village de Dimério et cause ainsi de grands dommages aux pauvres villageois. Le Commandant militaire en ayant informé, par l'entremise d'un villageois, le sous-officier sus-mentionné, ce dernier non-seulement n'a pas voulu reconnaître l'authenticité de cette nouvelle, mais il a battu le villageois, lui a mis des broches de bois entre les mains et l'a amené à Anino, ainsi qu'il résulte du rapport de l'officier qui se trouva à Anino.

De tels actes ne sauraient être tolérés, même par les plus féroces habitants des montagnes. C'est pourquoi je suis convaincu que la puissance limitrophe, aussitôt qu'elle aura pris connaissance de ces faits, voudra bien punir les coupables. Je vous prie, par conséquent, de vouloir bien communiquer ce qui précède au Commandant militaire de l'endroit en question, étant sûr d'avance qu'il prendra les mesures nécessaires en vue d'empêcher le renouvellement de pareils faits.

Agréez, &c.

Annex 1 to No. 220.

Athènes, le $\frac{25 \text{ Avril}}{7 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

Monsieur,

Je n'ai pas manqué d'attirer l'attention des autorités compétentes sur le fait que vous me signalez par votre office du 7/19 courant, de la formation d'une bande de brigands sur notre territoire dans le but de franchir la frontière.

Il résulte des renseignements qui viennent de me parvenir, qu'aucune bande n'a été formée sur notre territoire.

Je crois inutile d'ajouter que grâce aux mesures énergiques prises par le Gouvernement Royal, toute trace de brigandage a disparu depuis longtemps en Grèce, et que nos autorités civiles et militaires ont constamment déployé la plus grande autorité pour prévenir et étouffer dans sa naissance toute tentative de ce genre.

Je ne doute pas que la Sublime Porte ne soit également animée du désir d'extirper le brigandage, mais j'ai lieu à croire que ses ordres ne sont pas fidèlement exécutés, car si les autorités Ottomanes agissaient avec la même sévérité, on n'aurait pas à enregistrer les nombreux actes de brigandage qui se commettent de l'autre côté de la frontière, et qui nous imposent un redoublement de vigilance.

Aussi notre Consul à Volo vient de me faire savoir qu'une bande de brigands ayant rencontré l'intendant de la ferme de Gassavéki sur la route que mène de Volo à Almyro l'a réduit en captivité, et ignore la direction que la bande en question a prise après cet audacieux coup de main.

J'ai dû en prévenir immédiatement nos autorités, pour qu'elle eussent à empêcher l'entrée de cette bande dans notre territoire, et j'espère que les autorités Ottomanes auront avisé de leur côté les mesures que ce cas exige.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) TRICOUPI.

Annex 2 to No. 220.

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Athènes, le $\frac{25 \text{ Avril}}{7 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

Une bande de brigands attaque dernièrement un navire sous pavillon Hellénique, commandé par le Capitaine Comino, et ancré dans le fleuve Louro, sur la rive

Ottomane en Golfe Ambracique et, après l'avoir dévalisé, elle passa de l'autre côté près de Vonitza.

Nos autorités prirent immédiatement des mesures énergiques et parvinrent à arrêter quatre des brigands, parmi lesquels se trouvait le Chef de la bande. Quatre autres purent échapper aux poursuites de nos autorités et passer en Turquie.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de la Légation Impériale Ottomane, le Ministère Royal espère que les ordres nécessaires seront donnés à qui de droit pour la poursuite et l'arrestation des brigands en question.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 111.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1880.

YOURS No. 52.

I have to refer you to my telegrams to Mr. Goschen and to Mr. Green, repeated to you in my Nos. 107 and 109.

It is intended to invite assent of Montenegro, and then of the Porte.

No. 222.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11, 8 A.M.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 11, 1880, 12·45 A.M.

TEXT of identic note settled this afternoon without any difficulty, all being agreed upon every detail. To-morrow being Friday, note cannot be presented till Saturday morning.

Tissot has no final instructions; on the contrary, he has been told, probably through some misunderstanding, that Montenegrin passage was still uncertain. As the 16th is so near, it is urgent not to lose another day. I promised Tissot I would telegraph to your Lordship to assist in clearing up any confusion. Your telegram No. 48 of the 8th instant led me to state we were to conclude note on terms of Circular without reference to further negotiation. Most colleagues only partially informed about new plans. It is all-important that no change of instructions be sent them now, as note must be presented forthwith. Great cordiality exists between Ambassadors.

No. 223.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11, 10·45 A.M.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 11, 1880, 1 A.M.

NEW Ministry regarded as only provisional. Mahmoud Nedim Pasha said to have refused Premiership, because in the present crisis he cannot undertake lead unless Ministerial responsibility is established and Palace influence diminished. He remains Minister of the Interior, and will be the leading spirit of the new Cabinet. He is mortal enemy of late Prime Minister. Cadri Pasha is admitted, but probably he is a stop-gap. Abeddin variously criticized. Energy and capacity admitted, but his utter inexperience for his post and want of hold on the public much commented on. Change of Ministry and Abeddin's appointment very generally attributed to my audience, but the Ministry, though changed for the better in getting rid of Saïd Pasha and Sawas Pasha, can scarcely be regarded as meaning real business. Osman Pasha remains. Mahmoud Nedim Pasha and Abeddin have both sent very friendly messages to me to-day. Abeddin declared himself an Anglophil, and hoped he might be able to settle matters, but it would be unwise to accept overtures possibly intended to detach me from European concert.

No. 224.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 11, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 112 of yesterday, Italian Government will telegraph immediately to their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to communicating to the Porte proposed new arrangement respecting Montenegro.

No. 225.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11, 5 P.M.)

(No. 1. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 11, 1880, 3·40 P.M.*

I HAVE reason to believe that Prince Bismarck intends to give the full support of Germany to the line of frontier France will propose in the Conference, whatever it is. He has advised Russia to do the same. It is believed here that Italy will raise difficulties and seek to create a South Albanian question.

French Government inform Prince Bismarck, confidentially, that Sir Lintorn Simmons is disposed to resist the Franco-German line, and they send Colonel Perrier, their strongest geographer, in consequence to Berlin.

No. 226.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 11, 1880, 5 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram received to-day from Mr. Goschen:—

[See No. 222.]

Urge French Government to instruct M. Tissot to concur in note as agreed to by the other Ambassadors.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 227.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 11, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

SIR LINTORN SIMMONS leaves for Paris this evening. He will call at the Embassy at 10 to-morrow morning. Arrange for him to have an interview with M. de Freycinet. He wishes to go on to Berlin as soon as possible. French Ambassador has been told, and I believe he will also have telegraphed to M. de Freycinet.

No. 228.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 11, 1880, 8 A.M.*

IN compliance with your telegram No. 6, I arrived here this morning, and will probably see Prince in the course of the day.

No. 229.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 655.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 11, 1880.*

YOU will have learnt from Mr. Goschen's telegraphic Report of the 11th, which I have this day communicated to your Excellency, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople have agreed upon the terms of the identic note, and that they are anxious to present it to the Porte upon as early a day as possible.

The French Ambassador, however, has received no final instructions, and is in some doubt with regard to the passage which relates to Montenegro.

I have, therefore, to request that you will ask M. de Freycinet to instruct the French Representative at Constantinople to concur in the note, the terms of which have been settled by the Ambassadors there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 230.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 288.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 11, 1880.*

I HAVE read with interest the report given in your Excellency's despatch No. 260 of the 26th ultimo of Baron Kallay's observations upon the idea which Count Dubsky is reported to entertain, that the pro-Russian designs of the Exarch of Bulgaria might be frustrated by holding out encouragement to the Bulgarians to join the Church of Rome.

Baron Kallay is undoubtedly correct in thinking that such a notion could be accepted by no one having a knowledge of the character of the Bulgarian race, and that the disposition to join the Roman Church, shown some fifteen years' since, was the result of political, not of religious, sentiment.

The movement towards the Latin Church which was observed in Bulgaria at that time was really prompted by a strong desire and determination at all costs to shake off the administrative yoke of Constantinople, an object which has now been effected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 231.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 63. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, May 21, 1880.*

AN order has been issued by the authorities at Prisrend by which the sale of every kind of commodity to Turkish women by Christians is strictly interdicted.

Infringement of the above regulation by the latter renders them liable to three months' imprisonment and a fine of £ T. 20.

This measure is obviously intended to favour Mussulman merchants to the detriment of the Christian, and, besides being unjust and arbitrary, is, if I mistake not, contrary to the spirit of Article LXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 232.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, May 22, 1880.*

THE steadfast determination on the part of the Turkish Government and its officials not to carry out reforms, and the futility of making representations when cases of gross

injustice, tyranny, and oppression come to our notice, are vividly exemplified by the following facts:—

Ali Ibra, the Chief of a powerful tribe, by whose intervention at the time of Mehemed Ali's assassination the Catholic Church of Jacova was saved from pillage and the Christian inhabitants from massacre, was, at the request of Her Majesty's Ambassador, rewarded with a decoration by the Sultan for services rendered to His Majesty's Christian subjects.

Not only has the long-promised reward been withheld, but Ali Ibra, owing to the protection offered to the Christians, has been dismissed as Chief of his tribe.

Roustem, the Mussulman land-proprietor, whose tyranny over the Christian Rayahs formed the subject of my despatch No. 35 of the 3rd ultimo, and whom Mukhtar Pasha, on the occasion of my bringing these facts to his notice, promised to have arrested, is now not only still at large, but enjoys the protection of and is employed by the Local Government.

Kareman Bey, whose arbitrary conduct towards the Christians and inhabitants of Jacova—an instance of which I related in my despatch No. 23 of the 6th October of last year—made it impossible for him to hold any longer the post of Kaïmakam, has now been appointed in that capacity at Luma; and my note to Mukhtar Pasha, with reference to the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster, a copy of which I transmitted in my despatch No. 55, still remains unanswered.

Were I not afraid to take up your Lordship's time, I could mention many more cases where Government officials, whose misconduct has given us occasion to complain to the local authorities, have been rewarded for animosity to the Christians. Those above alluded to, however, suffice to show that any protection we might endeavour to obtain by applying to the authorities, or, indeed, to the Government, would only tend to make matters worse, and to render the position of the Christian population more difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 233.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 65. Political.)
Prisrend, May 22, 1880.

My Lord,

THOUGH Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha has not as yet vouchsafed to reply to the note I addressed to him with regard to the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster, we have received information to the effect that this unfortunate man, against whom no legal evidence of guilt by the Court of Prisrend could be brought, and who, nevertheless, was sent a prisoner to Monastir, as the Mutessarif stated to me, "to keep him out of harm's way," has now, by order of Moukhtar Pasha, been put in irons, and is about to undergo a mock trial with the object of making him out a traitor to his country for having imprudently written to a friend to know how many cases of assassination had occurred in the district of Gilan during the last three years.

The knowledge I now possess of Moukhtar Pasha's character leads me to apprehend serious consequences for any Christian who should have to depend upon him for either justice or mercy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 234.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 66. Political.)
Prisrend, May 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Foreign Office telegram of the 13th instant, and at the same time to express my thanks for your Lordship's kind permission for me to leave, should I apprehend any personal danger.

At present all is comparatively quiet at Prisrend, but I am glad to have received your Lordship's telegram, as, in the event of anything fortuitous occurring, I shall thereby be enabled to put pressure on the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 235.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 67. Political.)
Prisrend, May 25, 1880.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I had an interview with an Orthodox Greek priest from the district of Ipek, who fully corroborated my statements with regard to 127 Christians having been assassinated or wounded by Mussulmans in that district during the last three years, as reported in my despatch No. 36 of the 5th ultimo.

On my making inquiries as to the present state of affairs in that country he informed me that, comparatively, things were quiet, but that it was still impossible for Christians to go about unless accompanied by paid Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 236.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 409.)
Paris, June 11, 1880.

My Lord,

IN your despatch No. 630 of the day before yesterday, your Lordship did me the honour to send me a copy of a telegram from Musurus Pasha respecting an audience at which he had explained to the Sultan the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and also a copy of a despatch marked No. 22, which your Lordship had addressed to Mr. Goschen on the subject on the first instant.

In obedience to your Lordship's orders I have sent to-day copies of both these documents to M. de Freycinet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 237.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 58. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 11, 1880, 10·50 P.M.

WOULD it be desirable that I should inform Italian Government of the substance of Mr. Green's telegram, as recorded in your Lordship's No. 110? Count Maffei wishes me to state that the Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely approves his language, as reported in my despatch No. 254, Secret, of the 5th instant, and also his letter inclosed in No. 262, Secret, of the 7th instant, which may be taken as expressing the views of the Italian Cabinet on Greco-Albanian question.

No. 238.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 11, 1880, 10·50 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 108.

Would your Lordship wish me to ask Italian Government to authorize their Representative at Constantinople, after consultation with Her Majesty's Ambassador, to send a member of the Legation to take part in collective inquiry into the condition of the Mahommedans in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and if so, tell me what I am to say is the precise nature of the information Her Majesty's Government wish to obtain?

No. 239.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 11, 1880.

WHEN I communicated to Prince this morning proposal for obtaining the definitive settlement of his frontier I perceived that it did not displease His Highness, but he asked me to return in the afternoon with the Austrian Minister that we might all three discuss the matter together. At this second interview my colleague was only able to support me in a general way, as he has not yet precise instructions on the subject, but the Prince put forward so many pretensions that I was obliged to explain to him that the proposal was made in order to secure a frontier which the Porte could not evade surrendering, and not for remedying errors and omissions of Treaty of Berlin. I said proposal was intended to avoid on the east side of the lake necessity of any very considerable advance of Montenegro, and that if Albanian interests and the safety of Scutari were to be totally disregarded on the west side all probability of arrangement being carried out would disappear. Prince suspended reply till Austrian Minister's instructions arrive. If the Austrian Government instructs its Representative to give an unhesitating support, and all the Governments have adhered to arrangement, I think Prince will accept my proposals, but to prevent insurmountable difficulties in Albania, I request your Lordship's authority to be firm with the Prince as to my proposals being the maximum of the territorial concessions to be made.

Prince promises secrecy.

No. 240.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 10 A.M.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) , *June* 11, 1880, 4 P.M.

COMMISSION formally convened for Thursday, the 17th.

No. 241.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 5·20 A.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June* 11, 1880, 11·45 P.M.

FEW of my colleagues have any instructions about new Montenegrin negotiations. None anything precise. Identic note having been finally agreed on yesterday, and it being known that it is to be presented to-morrow, such Ambassadors as I have been able to consult to-day are still of opinion note must go forward in present shape.

German and Austrian Ambassadors agree with me that proposed new settlement would come well as a reply to Turkish answer, which will probably be given immediately.

Weight of the note would be diminished if a new settlement were communicated to the Porte just at the moment when note is sent in. But, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I will concert with Representatives of other Powers as to mode and time of communicating new proposed arrangement to the Porte.

No. 242.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 5·30 A.M.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June* 12, 1880, 12·45 A.M.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 61 and 62, repeating telegram received from Sir H. Elliot on 9th and sent to Mr. Green on 9th, reached me at midnight on the 11th. If it had been sent to me also on the 9th we could have concerted here at meeting of Thursday how to communicate it to Porte, with special reference to presentation of identic note. German Ambassador knew nothing whatever of the proposal yesterday afternoon.

No. 243.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 2. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1880.

YOURS No. 1, Conference.

Sir L. Simmons is acting under the directions of Her Majesty's Government, and has gone to Paris to see M. Freycinet and explain their views.

The last French proposal goes north of Olympus, and thus departs from the line of the valleys of the Berlin Congress. Her Majesty's Government hope that agreement will be arrived at, as it is very desirable that French and English should agree before any proposal is made to the Conference.

No. 244.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 8 P.M.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 12, 1880, 6 P.M.

M. DE FREYCINET has agreed to abandon the line to the north of Olympus, and will instruct French Ambassador at Berlin to propose the line in the French proposal of the 4th June, from the mouth of the Calamas to the summit of Olympus and the Ægæan Sea, as shown on French tracing.

General Simmons takes with him to Berlin a description of the line drawn up by him in concert with the French. M. de Freycinet will telegraph this description to the French Ambassador at Berlin, and his Excellency begs your Lordship will instruct Lord Odo Russell, by telegraph, to adopt it.

No. 245.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 8·10 P.M.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 12, 1880, 6·40 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 138.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs sent yesterday to French Minister at Constantinople authority to sign the identic note.

No. 246.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 12, 8·10 P.M.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 12, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 470, M. de Freycinet will send this evening, by telegraph, to the French Minister at Constantinople instructions to concert with his colleagues as to communicating to the Porte the proposed new arrangements with regard to the frontier of Montenegro.

No. 247.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1880.

YOURS No. 31.

Mr. Green is instructed to repeat all telegrams to you, and any omission to repeat telegrams from here has been by oversight, on account of the great number of telegrams.

No. 248.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 12, 1880.*

YOURS 32 of yesterday respecting communication to Porte of new proposal for Montenegrin frontier.

Her Majesty's Government approve your action.

No. 249.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 12, 1880.*

MR. GREEN'S telegram No. 5 repeated to you in my No. 150. Ask Austrian Government to instruct their Representative to support Mr. Green in pressing the line he recommends on Prince Nicholas.

No. 250.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 12, 1880.*

YOUR No. 5 of yesterday.

Your language to Prince Nicholas approved. I have requested Austro-Hungarian Government to instruct their Representative to support you.

No. 251.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12, 11 A.M.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 12, 1880, 8 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 153 and 154, orders have been given to M. de Novikoff similar to those in your telegram No. 59 to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting Montenegrin frontier.

No. 252.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12, 12·15 P.M.)

Corfu, June 12, 1880, 11·20 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I LEAVE for Janina after arrival of post on Tuesday, the 15th.

No. 253.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12, 6·50 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 12, 1880, 11·15 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 57.

What is Italian proposal referred to?

Italian Chargé d'Affaires has received instructions to concert with me about new frontier, but he has no further information, and cannot tell me the plan in question.

With reference to your telegram No. 58, without knowing substance of your Lordship's telegrams to Mr. Green of the 4th and 5th instant, to which he replies, I cannot fully understand his answer.

No. 254.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12, 7·22 P.M.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, June 12, 1880, 1·16 P.M.*

REPORT of Kirdjali Commission has been officially communicated to Consulates. Of the 36 declared implicated in late excesses, Colonel commanding column of militia is accused of military negligence, 1 officer accused of violence, 2 soldiers of rape, 2 officers and 2 soldiers of arson, 2 officers and 24 soldiers and having [*sic*] civilians of plundering; remaining cases not specified. Gymnasts are acquitted of having committed violence. Commission suggest indemnity to villages of 5,000 Turkish liras, of which sum, Secretary-General informs me, 2,000 liras have already been voted by Permanent Committee.

Copies of Report should reach your Lordship by next messenger from Therapia.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 255.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 6. Conference.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram, marked Conference No. 1, Secret, of yesterday, informing me that you have reason to believe that Prince Bismarck will give his full support to whatever line of frontier France may propose in the coming conference, I have to acquaint your Excellency that General Sir Lintorn Simmons has proceeded to Paris by direction of Her Majesty's Government in order to explain their views to M. de Freycinet.

The last proposal made by the French Government is a departure from the line suggested by the Congress of Berlin, for it would extend the Greek frontier to the north of Mount Olympus.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the explanations exchanged between Her Majesty's Government and that of France may lead to an agreement being arrived at between them before any proposal is made to the conference, as it is very desirable that they should be united in this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 256.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 73.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 32 of yesterday has been received, and Her Majesty's Government agree with your Excellency that the proposed new arrangements with regard to the Montenegrin frontier had better not be mentioned in the identic note, but should be communicated to the Porte after its reply to that note shall have been received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 257.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13, 1·20 P.M.)

(No. 2. Conference. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 13, 1880.*

FRENCH Government informs Prince Bismarck, confidentially, that a Conference took place yesterday at the Foreign Office between Lord Lyons, Sir Lintorn Simmons, M. de Freycinet, Baron Courcel, Colonels Perrier and La Ferronnys, and that they succeeded in arriving at a satisfactory agreement about the Greek frontier-line to be proposed at Berlin.

No. 258.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13, 12·54 P.M.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 18, 1880, 10 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Stephen, dated Philibé, 10th June:—

"Assured that following have been finally appointed members on Aïdos Commission: Colonel Borthwick, President; Zlataroff, late President of Kirdjali Commission, a Bulgarian; Bagaeff, Bulgarian Judge; Captain Filoff and M. Matcoff, Bulgarians; M. Achek, Procureur of Bourgas, a Czech; Barraczi, Hungarian; and two Turks, Ahmed Pehlivanoglou and Ahmed Effendi.

"Members start from here on Monday."

No. 259.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13, 4·10 P.M.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 13, 1880, 10·15 A.M.*

STEPHEN has telegraphed to your Lordship result of Kirdjali Commission, and I have telegraphed constitution of Aïdos under presidency of Colonel Borthwick.

I have seen Mr. Michell and Colonel Borthwick, and pressed them as to whether proceedings of Kirdjali Commission were satisfactory. They give a good account of it, looking to the difficulties in its way.

I questioned them as to whether further steps could be taken with advantage in investigation in Kirdjali business. They say no.

Next point will be to see how the convicted offenders are punished.

2. As to Aïdos outrages, Colonel Borthwick may be relied on to see that proceedings are perfectly fair. If they are not, he will resign at once. Meanwhile, separate Consular inquiry into burning of villages could of course not take place.

This step, to which Baron Haymerle would wish confinement of our action, namely, inquiry into question of villages, as stated in your telegram No. 56, cannot be taken, and collective action is impossible.

I propose now to act on your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 18th ultimo, and to send Colonel Wilson to ascertain whether or no there exists an organized system of persecution of Mahommedans and Greeks in the province, whether acts of violence and oppression complained of are committed with connivance of leading persons, and what is real condition of affairs in the country. Colonel Wilson to travel through various districts. He should specially report too on Consular reports from Bourgas. His visit to be as little ostentatious as possible.

If this course is approved, I will again consult as many of my colleagues as are interested, and request them to take similar steps quietly.

I have waited results of Kirdjali Commission before finally recommending what should be done.

No. 260.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13, 6·58 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 13, 1880, 3·40 P.M.*

THIS morning Prince Nicholas sent for me and informed me, in the presence of the Austrian Minister, who had called on His Highness to announce that the Austrian Government is in complete accord with Her Majesty's Government, that he would place his Albanian frontier interests entirely in the hands of the Great Powers, trusting to the Austrian Government, as his neighbour, to obtain for him, if possible, certain amplifications of proposed line.

His Highness requested my colleague and me to address a note to his Minister for Foreign Affairs, denoting the proposed line, and said a reply would be given containing acceptance by Montenegro, on condition that the Powers formally engage to obtain loyal surrender of the frontier by the Porte.

My Austrian colleague is not of opinion that Prince's attempt to extend the line need be further considered, and I am sure such a concession would be impolitic.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 261.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 50 of the 6th instant, I have addressed to M. Zancoff, expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government to receive from the Government of the Principality satisfactory assurances that effectual measures have been taken to secure a cessation of the persecutions of which the Mussulmans in the Principality have so long been the victims, and to give them that protection to which they have every claim.

M. Demartino, the Italian Agent and Consul-General, having also addressed a note on this subject to M. Zancoff, proposed to me that we should go together to his Excellency, and ask when we might expect to receive an answer. As your Lordship had instructed me by your telegram of the 7th instant to co-operate with my Italian colleague, I had no hesitation in agreeing to his proposal, and we consequently called upon M. Zancoff yesterday.

In reply to our observations, his Excellency said that he had caused inquiries to be made throughout the Principality with regard to the complaints of the Turkish population.

He had not yet received the Reports which he had called for, but he promised that we should receive an answer to our notes in the course of ten days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Zancoff.

Sophia, le 20 Mai, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

L'AMBASSADEUR de la Sublime Porte à Londres ayant, par ordre de son Gouvernement, attiré de nouveau l'attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté sur les persécutions auxquelles sont assujetties les Musulmans dans la Principauté, et surtout ceux qui se trouvent dans le voisinage de Kustendil, j'ai été chargé par le Comte Granville, Premier Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour les Affaires Etrangères, de renouveler les représentations qui ont déjà été adressées par cette agence au Gouvernement Bulgare à propos de ces pauvres malheureux, et d'exprimer à votre Excellence l'espoir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de recevoir du Gouvernement de la Principauté l'assurance que des mesures efficaces ont été prises pour assurer la cessation de ces persécutions, et pour accorder aux Musulmans la protection à laquelle ils ont droit.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 262.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 29, 1880.*

BY my telegrams of the 24th and 26th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship the difference that had arisen between Bulgaria and Servia and Roumania in consequence of a Projet de Loi having been submitted to the Bulgarian Chamber with regard to the naturalization in the Principality of persons of Bulgarian origin.

I have the honour to inclose a translation in French of the 3rd Article of the proposed law, providing that persons of Bulgarian origin in Eastern Roumelia and the Turkish provinces, or in those portions of Bulgaria which have been annexed to Roumania or Servia, shall be considered as Bulgarian citizens upon the presentation of a certificate from a Bulgarian Commune declaring that they have presented themselves within a period of three months from the promulgation of the law, and also that the inhabitants of the portions annexed to Roumania and Servia who shall emigrate into Bulgaria within a period of two years from the promulgation of the law shall become

Bulgarian subjects without any further condition than the certificate of a Bulgarian Commune declaring that they are domiciled in the Principality.

The Servian Agent at once protested strongly against the proposed Law, and the acting Roumanian Agent and Consul-General, M. Beltimano, having received instructions from his Government to use all means of conciliation to avert a conflict, presented a memorandum to M. Zancoff pointing out—

1. That the proposed Law practically gave an option to certain Roumanian subjects to change their nationality, and that it could not be admitted that the internal legislation of one State should affect the status of subjects of another in the absence of any Convention on the subject.

2. That the wording of the proposed law implied that the Dobrudscha had once formed part of the Principality.

3. That two categories of Roumanian subjects were created which was practically an infringement of Roumanian sovereignty.

4. That Roumania might in self-defence be obliged to adopt measures which would endanger the friendliness of her relations with Bulgaria; and

5. If the law were passed, Roumania would be obliged to protest formally against it, and address a Circular to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Beltimano having communicated to me this memorandum, I took an opportunity of speaking to M. Zancoff on the subject. His Excellency explained to me that the object of the Bulgarian Government in framing this law was to grant facilities to the inhabitants, of Bulgarian origin, of the Dobrudscha, and of the territory which had been given to Servia, to become subjects of the Principality, as it was evident that the districts in question could never form portion of Bulgaria, and were beyond the range of Bulgarian aspiration.

In Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia it was important to strengthen the Bulgarian element, and it was, therefore, sought not to give equal facilities to the Bulgarians in those countries. His Excellency said he could not understand that a State should complain of their subjects being treated in an exceptionally favourable manner. I observed that it appeared to me that Roumania was justified in objecting to a difference being made between her subjects without having been consulted, and also to the implication that the Dobrudscha had ever formed part of the Principality.

His Excellency replied that the words to which objection had been taken would be altered in the Bill, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the amended wording of the first paragraph of the 3rd Article.

M. Beltimano at once pointed out that the proposed alteration left the question of the two categories of Roumanian subjects as it was before, and that unless some further alteration were made it would become his duty to protest officially.

In a conversation which I had with M. Zancoff after the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, his Excellency informed me that he would now take measures to prevent the passing of the law. In reply to an observation of mine that, under those circumstances it appeared to me that it would be better that the Bill should be withdrawn, his Excellency observed that if that were done it would be competent for any individual member to bring it again before the Chamber. His Excellency could assure me that nothing should be done that would be contrary to the wishes of the Powers. M. Zancoff has also assured my Austrian colleague that the Bill shall not be passed this Session, and I believe that it is arranged that the Committee to which the Bill has been referred shall not present their Report before the prorogation of the Chamber.

This incident, therefore, which at one moment threatened to assume formidable proportions, may now be considered as closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 262.

Draft of Article 3 of proposed Law.

SERONT considérés comme citoyens Bulgares, sans autre condition que le certificat d'une commune Bulgare, constatant qu'ils y sont admis et présenté dans un délai de trois mois à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi:

Tous les anciens sujets Ottomans de nationalité Bulgare, nés en Roumélie ou dans les provinces Turques, ou dans les parties de la Bulgarie annexées à la Roumanie

ou à la Serbie, qui se sont domiciliés sur le territoire Bulgare avant la promulgation de la présente loi.

De même seront citoyens Bulgares sans autre condition que le certificat d'une commune Bulgare, constatant qu'ils y sont domiciliés, les habitants d'origine Bulgare qui, se trouvant dans les parties annexées à la Roumanie et Serbie, et n'étant pas décidés à y rester, émigreront en Bulgarie dans un délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi.

Inclosure 2 in No. 262.

Amended Article.

TOUS ceux d'origine Bulgare qui ont été sujets Ottomans et se sont installés sur le territoire de la Principauté Bulgare avant la promulgation de cette loi, ou s'y installeront dans un terme de deux ans à partir . .

No. 263.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May* 31, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant and to mine of the 17th, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter which I have received from Mr. Brophy, Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna, giving such details as he had, up to the present, been able to obtain with regard to the destruction and pillage of certain Mussulman villages in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I at once communicated to M. Zancoff the information which Mr. Brophy had furnished, without, however, mentioning that gentleman's name. His Excellency observed that the events to which I had referred had occurred before the departure of General Ehrnrooth, whose duty it would be to investigate the matter. His Excellency added that he would be glad if I could give him a memorandum embodying the information which I had received, in order that he might send it to General Ehrnrooth. I at once complied with his Excellency's request, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the memorandum which I drew up, as well as of the private letter in which I sent it to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 263.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

(Extract.) *Varna, May* 22, 1880.

DOUBTLESS you will have already heard something of the deplorable excesses lately committed by the Bulgarians against the peaceable Mussulman inhabitants of the villages in the near Balkan. I do not now write a Report on the subject, as I have not got sufficient details upon the affair, the victims having been all driven southwards, and I dare say two weeks or so will elapse ere I have all the necessary details on the subject. This much I know, from independent Christian testimony, that the assailants were a mixture of Eastern Roumelian police and "gymnasiasts," and a lot of the militia of this Principality, together with a gathering of armed Bulgar peasants from Soudjoulo, Ergetch, Kenpri-Keui, and several other villages on both sides of the border. They then from both sides attacked the villages, killing several men, women, and children, and violating, it is said, some women and girls, and having driven off all the cattle and sheep, completely plundering and rausacking the houses, set fire to a great many villages, of which the following are only some:—Topadjiler, Yedikler, Edoryé, Haiderler, Youssouf, Tchampalar, Kara-Moutza, Hodja-Keui, Yéni-Keui, Karahamza, Aivadjik, Denizler, and Dann-Gieuz. A great many of the villages lay within that strip of land from Kazan to the sea of which I wrote in my despatch of the 21st April, and this was the manner in which the authorities here

inaugurated their taking possession, but the others were strictly in the Eastern Roumelian and Bulgarian Principality boundaries.

Of course the excuse is brigandage or insurrection, but it is entirely false as regards most of the places, if not all, for most of them (the Mussulman villagers) had been continually robbed and persecuted by their Bulgar neighbours, as my despatches of last year, relating precisely to those parts, show. The fact is, I am morally certain that it was a plan concerted between the Governments of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria proper to drive out the unspeakable Turk, not with bag and baggage, for that was retained by the Christian warriors, but to death and starvation. I do not believe, from certain data that I have, that I shall be doing the Governor of Varna (Stoyanof) and the Prefect of Bourgas (Yaukolof) any injustice in saying they were amongst the prime authors and were the means of this simultaneous attack of the armed villagers, who, they say, amounted to about 2,000.

Inclosure 2 in No. 263.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Zancoff.

Sophia, le 28 Mai, 1880.

Mon cher Ministre,

D'APRÈS le désir que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'exprimer dans votre conversation de ce matin, je m'empresse de vous transmettre un mémorandum sur les renseignements qui m'ont été fournis à propos de l'affaire regrettable qui s'est produite dans les villages des Balkans.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 263.

Memorandum.

Destruction et Pillage des Villages Musulmans entre Varna et Bourgas.

LES bandes armées qui ont attaqué les villages étaient composées de la police de la Roumélie Orientale, de "gymnasiastes," et d'un nombre de la milice de la Principauté avec un nombre de paysans armés Bulgares de Soudjouto, Ergotch, Koupri-Keui et d'autres villages des deux côtés de la frontière.

L'attaque a été faite des deux côtés. Plusieurs hommes, femmes, et enfants ont été tués, des femmes et des filles ont été violées, le bétail a été enlevé, les maisons ont été complétement pillées, et le feu a été mis à un grand nombre de villages dont voici les noms de quelques-uns seulement: Topadjiler, Zedikler, Eloiyé, Haiderler, Youssouf, Tchaupanlar, Kara-Moudza, Hodja-Keui, Youi-Keui, Karahamza, Aivadjik, Dénizler, Dana-Gieuz.

Il y a lieu de croire que cette attaque simultanée, dans laquelle des villageois armés au nombre, dit-on, de 2,000, ont pris part, a été combinée par les autorités locales de la Roumélie Orientale et de la Bulgarie.

No. 261.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord,

Sophia, June 1, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna, announcing the arrival of seventy-eight Russian soldiers, mostly non-commissioned officers, who had come to take service in the Bulgarian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, May 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Thursday last, the 20th instant, seventy-eight more Russian soldiers, mostly non-commissioned officers, of all arms, artillery, cavalry, &c., arrived here in the Russian mail steamer, in order to take service in the Bulgarian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 265.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord,

Sophia, May 31, 1880.

DURING the negotiations which took place between the Acting Roumanian Agent and M. Zancoff in consequence of the proposed Naturalization Law, M. Beltimano thought it his duty to ask for an audience of the Prince of Bulgaria, to inform His Highness of the instructions which he had received from his Government. To his great surprise, M. Beltimano discovered that His Highness was perfectly ignorant of the question, and was not even aware that a project of law had been submitted to the Chamber.

It appears that this is not the only occasion on which the Prince has been kept in ignorance of what was going on, and it is said that the Ministers are anxious to isolate the Prince as much as possible, and to render his participation in the affairs of State as small as possible.

The attitude of the Russian Agent and Consul-General, who is supposed to be the guiding spirit of the present Bulgarian Government, has given rise to considerable comment among the foreign Representatives here. Immediately after M. Beltimano had presented his memorandum to M. Zancoff, M. Coumany assured him that the question should be settled in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the Roumanian Government, and M. Beltimano was therefore considerably surprised when he became acquainted with the amended project, which is generally supposed to have been drawn up by M. Coumany himself, and which, while omitting any mention of the "annexation" of the Dobrudja to Roumania, made no change with regard to the difference of treatment between the inhabitants of the Dobrudja and other Roumanian subjects.

Subsequently M. Coumany offered to M. Beltimano his personal guarantee that the law should not pass the Chamber, and he also offered the same guarantee to Count Khevenhüller, the Austrian Agent and Consul-General. After the latter had informed M. Zancoff of the views of the Austrian Government with regard to the law, Count Khevenhüller replied that he did not require any guarantee from M. Coumany, and that he was satisfied with the assurances he had from M. Zancoff.

It is certainly difficult to understand how the personal guarantee of a foreign Representative can be accepted as binding on the Government to which he is accredited, and I should not have troubled your Lordship with these details if they had not appeared to me to be illustrative of the position which the Russian Agent holds at Sophia, and which, coupled with the attempts which apparently are being made to weaken the Prince's authority, and to keep His Highness in ignorance of what is going on, I have thought of sufficient importance to bring to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 266.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord,

Sophia, May 31, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 87 of this day's date, I have the honour to report that, during a conversation which I had with the Prince of Bulgaria to-day, His Highness informed me that he had received a Report respecting the events that had

taken place in certain Mussulman villages between Varna and Bourgas. It appears that there is a strip of land between Kazan and the sea, which, although belonging to the Principality, has been considered as a neutral zone, and has been hitherto administered by the Eastern Roumelian authorities. A detachment of Bulgarian troops had been ordered to take possession of this territory, and, unfortunately, they had executed their orders without any notice of their arrival having been given to the inhabitants, who became alarmed and deserted their villages. The troops entered the villages, which were completely abandoned; but the inhabitants assembled afterwards and attacked the troops, killing four officers, a non-commissioned officer, and several soldiers. The officer in command, finding himself almost surrounded, applied for assistance to the authorities, both of the Principality and of Eastern Roumelia; and the Governor of Bourgas, who had no force at his disposal, gave orders that the Bulgarian peasants in the neighbourhood should be called upon to defend the soldiers. About 800 peasants were collected. An attack was made on the Turks, many of whom were killed, and the villages were burnt.

His Highness observed that the Bulgarian authorities were to blame for having omitted to give notice of the arrival of the Bulgarian troops, and that the Prefect of Bourgas had acted wrongly in calling upon the peasants, who, not being under discipline, were likely to commit excesses, but that the attack had been made by the Turks, and that the troops had merely acted in self-defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 267.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Sophia, June 1, 1880.*

EVER since the arrival of M. Hoedé, the French Inspector of Finance, who had been designated by the French Government to assist the Bulgarian Government in reorganizing their finances, as reported in my despatch No. 83 of the 18th instant, M. Schefer, the French Agent and Consul-General, has been using his utmost efforts to obtain the signature of the contract which had been agreed upon between him and the late Bulgarian Government. In consequence of the delay which occurred, M. Schefer addressed a note to M. Zancoff demanding the fulfilment of the engagement entered into by M. Natchowitz, and reminding his Excellency that the engagement then made was final, and could not be altered. Having waited some days for a reply, M. Schefer addressed a further note to M. Zancoff in the third person stating that unless he received a definitive answer in the course of two days he would be obliged to apply to his Government for instructions.

In reply to this note M. Zancoff forwarded to M. Schefer a copy of a contract which he was ready to sign, which his Excellency said was, with certain verbal alterations which the Bulgarian Government had thought it advisable to make, the same as the contract agreed upon by his predecessor. On examining this document M. Schefer found that the alterations that had been made, so far from being merely verbal, would completely change the position which M. Hoedé was to occupy, and would render him nothing more than a subordinate employé of the Minister of Finance.

This was a position which M. Schefer could not accept, and he accordingly remonstrated against it. He has now received a note from M. Zancoff stating that the Bulgarian Government must maintain the modifications which they have made in the contract, and containing statements with regard to the position which it is sought to give to M. Hoedé which are not only contrary to fact, but certain insinuations damaging to that gentleman's reputation. M. Schefer can only regard this action on the part of the Bulgarian Government as a breach of the engagement into which they had entered, and he intends now to address a note to M. Zancoff to demand the payment of the indemnity which it was arranged should be given to M. Hoedé in case of his dismissal by the Bulgarian Government. The amount of indemnity would be equal to two years' salary at the rate of 40,000 fr. a-year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 268.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 4, 1880.*

M. TRICOUPI has furnished me with a memorandum, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, showing how unfounded are the allegations constantly put forward by the Ottoman Government that brigandage is encouraged in Epirus and Thessaly by Committees sitting in Athens.

I am able to corroborate the information contained in this memorandum by independent testimony which I have received from other persons.

I have sent a copy of the memorandum to Mr. Goschen for his Excellency's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Pro-memoria.

DANS une note Circulaire adressée par Sawas Pacha aux Représentants de la Porte à l'étranger, il est dit entre autres que le brigandage est encouragé en Epire et en Thessalie par des Comités ayant leur siège en Grèce.

Le brigandage ayant été complètement extirpé en Grèce de longue date, les finances et l'armée du Royaume continuent pourtant à être obérés par les charges que leur impose l'obligation du Gouvernement Hellénique de tenir un cordon militaire sur les frontières pour prévenir les incursions des bandes de brigands qui infestent le pays limitrophe, et qui ne manquent pas de tenter souvent l'aventure dans les provinces du Royaume, quoiqu'elles se voient aussitôt refoulées.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est plaint itérativement de cet état de choses dont il a tracé la source non-seulement au relâchement de l'autorité dans les provinces Grecques de la Turquie, mais aussi à la coupable incurie et même au mauvais vouloir des préposés à la poursuite du brigandage en Epire et en Thessalie. Le fait que des brigands tels que Dédoussi, Leli, et autres, après avoir été amnistiés par le Gouvernement Ottoman, ont été placés tout près de nos frontières à des postes militaires de confiance, témoigne de l'esprit dans lequel le Gouvernement Ottoman agit envers la Grèce dans cette question.

Non content des charges et des dangers auxquels cette conduite expose le Royaume Hellénique, le Gouvernement Ottoman profite des circonstances que provoquent ses propres actes pour reporter sur la Grèce les accusations dont il est lui-même passible. Toutes les fois que des bandes de brigands formées sur le territoire Ottoman essayent de pénétrer sur le sol Hellénique et sont repoussées on voit ces bandes représentées par le Gouvernement Ottoman comme originaires de la Grèce et faisant irruption sur le territoire Ottoman.

C'est pour donner une couleur à ces allégations que les autorités Ottomanes ont inventé la fable des Comités soi-disant établis en Grèce, et lançant ces bandes dans la poursuite d'un but que l'on s'abstient de préciser.

Il suffirait pour réfuter ces allégations de constater le fait qu'il n'existe point en Grèce de brigands à soudoyer par les Comités, mais il y a plus: les Comités dénoncés par le Gouvernement sont purement imaginaires.

Pendant la période insurrectionnelle qu'ont traversée les provinces limitrophes, il y avait en Grèce des Comités poursuivant un but politique avec lequel toutefois le brigandage n'avait et ne pouvait avoir rien de commun. Ces Comités (Amyna, Adelfotis, Syllogue, Macédonien, &c.), agissaient au grand jour jusqu'à l'époque où le Congrès de Berlin donna une autre direction à l'activité nationale. Ces Comités disparurent alors et ceux qui existent aujourd'hui ne sont pas des Comités d'action. Le plus important de ces Comités est le Syllogos pour l'encouragement des lettres Grecques. Son titre indique le but qu'il poursuit, et les comptes rendus de ses travaux régulièrement livrés à la publicité attestent de la légitimité de tous ses actes, et des avantages que retire l'Hellénisme de son œuvre civilisatrice. D'autres Comités (Parnasse, Byron, les Muses, Socrates, Aristote, l'Apôtre Paul, &c.) poursuivent des œuvres littéraires ou religieuses. S'il y en a qui, comme le "Rhigas" et le "Syllogos Commercial et

Industriel" visent un but social, leur portée ne s'étend pas au delà des limites du Royaume.

Seul le Syllogos des Epirotes a en vue une œuvre politique relative aux provinces limitrophes, mais le concours qu'il offre à la cause de l'Epire est exclusivement d'un ordre moral. Le fait que ce Syllogos n'a jamais fait de collecte et n'a point de Caisse indique assez que ce n'est point un Comité d'action; il le serait d'ailleurs que l'encouragement du brigandage en Turquie ne rentrerait certes pas dans son programme, ainsi qu'il n'a pu rentrer dans celui de l'Amyna et de l'Adelfotis. Les principales victimes du brigandage en Epire et en Thessalie sont les Grecs de ces provinces; les habitants Ottomans en souffrent moins, trouvant auprès des autorités une protection qui manque à ceux qui n'appartiennent pas à la race dominante. Il est donc préposterè de prétendre que les Comités institués pour représenter les intérêts des Grecs de l'Epire et de la Thessalie trempent dans des agissements qu'ils ont mission de déjouer. Le Syllogos des Epirotes a en vue de plaider auprès du Royaume Hellénique et de l'étranger la cause de l'Epire, et c'est ce qu'il a fait dans quelques occasions assez notoires. D'ailleurs, il agit publiquement et ses actes connus de tous ne prêtent point à l'équivoque.

Après avoir mentionné encore pour mémoire le Syllogos des Cypriotes qui s'occupe légitimement des intérêts de l'Ile de Chypre, on peut affirmer qu'en dehors de ces Comités on n'en connait point d'autres. Il n'y en a pas un qui directement ou indirectement prête le flanc aux accusations formulées par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie. Savas Pacha n'en désigne aucun et il ne saurait en désigner. Les Comités d'action qui ont pris fin avec le Congrès de Berlin ne se sont occupés du brigandage que pour prêter leur concours à sa répression. Or, ainsi qu'il a été établi plus haut, il n'existe aujourd'hui en Grèce aucun Comité d'action.

No. 269.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 291.) *Vienna, June 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been asked by Baron Haymerle whether your Lordship wished that the inquiry proposed to be made in Eastern Roumelia should be limited to the alleged destruction of Turkish villages, or should embrace the larger question of the general maltreatment which the Mussulmans are said to be undergoing at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I said that the instruction to Mr. Goschen suggesting this inquiry had only mentioned the villages supposed to have been destroyed.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 296.) *Vienna, June 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

I CALLED this morning on Baron Haymerle to communicate to him your Lordship's telegrams No. 137 and 140 of yesterday, respecting the proposed inquiry in Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency had just received from M. d'Oubril the copy of a telegram from the Russian Government, stating that Mr. Goschen had proposed to his colleagues to unite in making a collective inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman population of Bulgaria and East Roumelia, which would cast an injurious aspersion upon the two Governments, and ought not, in the opinion of the Russian Government, to be adopted till the truth of the accusation against them was better established.

Baron Haymerle observed that this was the first time he had heard of Bulgaria being included in the inquiry, and he was also not aware of Mr. Goschen having suggested its embracing the general condition of the Mahommedans, but, after the intimation of the opinion he had just received from the Russian Government, he thought that instead of a

collective inquiry it would be preferable to follow the course suggested in your telegram No. 140, by letting each Ambassador take his own line in making it.

He would not, he said, positively instruct Count Dubsky to send a member of his Mission to East Roumelia to investigate the matter, but he would authorize him to do so if, after communicating with Mr. Goschen, he considered that it would be desirable.

If a collective inquiry had been decided upon, Baron Haymerle would not have been in favour of extending it beyond the question of the villages, for he thinks that by carrying it further too wide a field would have been opened, although it is no doubt the general treatment of the Mussulmans which is the subject of interest.

In reply to his question whether I could tell him precisely what the information was which Her Majesty's Government wished to obtain, I said that I imagined that Her Majesty's Government wished to feel sure that there had been no exaggeration in some of the Consular Reports that had been received.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 297. Confidential.) *Vienna, June 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

SIR A. PAGET in his despatch to your Lordship No. 214, Most Confidential, of the 8th ultimo, reported the opinion which Count Corti considered Baron Haymerle to hold upon the present condition of Turkey, and I am able to confirm the impression he seems to have derived from his conversation with the Austrian Minister in almost every particular.

Baron Haymerle certainly appears to consider not only that the Turkish Empire is falling to pieces, but that the process of decomposition is so far advanced as to render it impossible effectually to stay it, and his anxiety is therefore turned rather to the means of preventing the dissolution from taking place under conditions likely to be accompanied by a general European convulsion than to the mode of averting an inevitable catastrophe.

From all the conversations I have had with him, I gather his opinion to be that the Turkish Empire might be allowed gradually to "crumble to pieces" from internal decay with much less danger to the peace of Europe than would be the case if it were to be "shaken or knocked to pieces" from without; and he certainly fears that attempts to reform upon European notions, unless they are conducted with great prudence, would be more likely to precipitate than to retard the final collapse, which he wishes to see deferred as long as possible.

He would, therefore, be satisfied for the present with relieving the provinces from the incubus of the incessant interference of the central Government of Constantinople, and with granting them local institutions sufficient to ensure them a certain control over their own concerns, and gradually to fit them for a larger measure of autonomy than they are now qualified to exercise with advantage.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 272.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 305.) *Vienna, June 11, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to inclose copy of a despatch that has been addressed to me by Mr. Wietz, Acting Consul at Serajevo, relative to the present state of affairs in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Mr. Wietz to Sir H. Elliot.

Sérajevo, le 31 Mai, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE 11 de ce mois, l'Archiduc Guillaume est arrivé à Sérajevo, où la Municipalité l'a reçu avec pompe, les maisons étant pavoisées et la rue principale se trouvant ornée d'arc de triomphe; par ordre, l'élément militaire s'était tenu à l'écart pour respecter l'incognito de Son Altesse Impériale, et le soir on illuminait la ville. Le 12, l'Archiduc, n'ayant à ses côtés qu'un Colonel d'artillerie, son Aide-de-camp, a donné audience aux membres du Corps Consulaire et aux différentes communautés; le 13, il s'est rendu à Vichigrad, le 19 il effectuait son retour en ma résidence, enfin, il est parti le 20 pour Vienne. Son but avait été, il est vrai, de poursuivre l'itinéraire jusqu'à Plevdje afin de visiter quelques batteries, mais le peu de sécurité qu'on pouvait rencontrer en s'engageant plus au sud dans des localités où la population n'est pas encore désarmée l'a engagé à ne pas dépasser les limites du Sandjak de Sérajevo. La mission attribuée à l'oncle de l'Empereur ne vise que l'inspection de l'artillerie, toutefois Son Altesse Impériale a eu l'occasion durant ces trois semaines de s'enquérir—bien que superficiellement—des besoins du pays, des difficultés que soulèvent sans cesse les questions agraires et fiscales, et, interrogé à Vienne, elle ne manquera pas de fournir certaines explications utiles.

J'annonçais, dans la lettre que j'avais l'honneur d'adresser à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique le 30 Avril dernier, qu'une députation de Notables Musulmans s'était rendue à Vienne. S'il fallait ajouter foi à ce qui m'est rapporté ici, les délégués bien qu'ayant reçus de la bouche même de l'Empereur François-Joseph l'assurance que prochainement une solution serait donnée à la question agraire, auraient déclaré que, d'après leur mandat, ils ne pouvaient retourner en Bosnie qu'une fois connus les termes de cette solution. D'ailleurs, ces délégués ont réussi—le fait m'est affirmé du moins—à obtenir de Sa Majesté que l'Eglise Catholique de Sérajevo ne serait pas construite, comme tel était le projet, sur le terrain appelé "Mouccelah"—c'est-à-dire, lieu de la prière—et qui dépend d'une mosquée.

Le 30 de ce mois, M. Holyinger, Vice-Consul Gérant du Consulat Général d'Autriche Hongrie, a quitté définitivement cette résidence; son départ implique la suppression des postes Consulaires dans les provinces occupées.

M. le Dr. Fromelt, Consul d'Allemagne, a obtenu un congé de deux mois et partira le 5 Juin, son Consulat devant être géré par M. Christmem, Chancelier. Cet Agent m'a assuré que la suppression de la juridiction Consulaire Allemande en Bosnie et en Herzégovine sera incessamment décrétée. A ce sujet le Duc de Wurtemberg me disait, il y a à peine quelques jours, que la suppression de la juridiction ne tardera pas à être appliquée aux autres Consulats et que l'abolition définitive de ces derniers suivra alors.

Le Duc ira en Herzégovine dans les premiers jours de Juin et fera une tournée d'inspection: Son Altesse Impériale n'attend pour partir que le retour du Feld-Maréchal Lieutenant Baron Dahlen, son suppléant Général, lequel se trouve, lui-même, en tournée depuis plus d'un mois.

La perception des droits municipaux a donné lieu à de graves désordres dans plusieurs localités de la Bosnie: ainsi, à Travnick, la troupe a dû intervenir aux dates des 7 et 14 Mai, et on signale des victimes de part et d'autre. A Sérajevo, la population est aussi mécontente, car pour ces taxes de la Municipalité, chaque habitant est tenu de payer 140 piastres, ou près de 14 fl., tandis que, sous le régime Turc, la quote-part de chacun ne s'élevait qu'à 3 piastres. Ainsi, la ville qui ne percevait jadis que 60,000 piastres, soit 5,000 fl., doit recevoir maintenant 225,000 fl.

Hier, j'ai assisté devant la caserne aux exercices du nouveau corps de pompiers, composé de volontaires Autrichiens au nombre de 86, auxquels sont adjoints 120 Bosniaques portant le titre de sapeurs; ces pompiers ont le même costume qu'à Vienne et sont instruits par des instructeurs venus de la capitale. Leur matériel, acheté récemment, est très-beau.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. WIETZ.

No. 273.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 251.)
Berlin, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 257 of the 3rd instant, respecting the instructions sent on the 25th ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to consult with his colleagues as to the best means of ascertaining the truth respecting the destruction of Turkish villages, and of making representations at Philippopoli to secure the punishment of the offenders and obtain future adequate protection for the Mussulman inhabitants, I am informed by Prince Hohenlohe that, as several suggestions have been put forward by the Powers on this subject, the German Government prefer for the present to withhold their opinion until an agreement among the Powers most interested in the question has been achieved, to which Germany will then willingly give her support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 274.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 253.)
Berlin, June 8, 1880.

My Lord,

MY colleagues have been privately informed by Prince Hohenlohe that, as the first meeting of the Conference cannot begin until their respective full powers have been verified, Prince Bismarck hoped they would receive them in time for Wednesday, the 16th instant, so as to avoid delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 275.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 254.)
Berlin, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 267 of the 8th instant, I communicated to Prince Hohenlohe the substance of your message of last night, and said that your Lordship had told the German, Austrian, French, and Russian Ambassadors in London that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed that, unless there was perfect agreement, it would be better for each Representative to take his own line about the inquiries in Eastern Roumelia.

Mr. Goschen, I said, had also been directed in doing so to keep his colleagues informed as to the steps he might think it advisable to take, and of the results obtained thereby.

Prince Hohenlohe, in thanking your Lordship for this message, said that Prince Bismarck would be much obliged for any further information on the subject your Lordship would communicate to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 276.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 256. Private and Confidential.)
Berlin, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation I had with Prince Hohenlohe his Excellency said he wished to ask me privately whether Her Majesty's Government would have any objection to letting the French Government take the initiative in proposing the new Greek frontier in the coming Conference as they had done at the Conference in 1878. Prince Bismarck,

his Highness said, would be much obliged if Her Majesty's Government would consent to this course being adopted, to which he, personally, attached importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 277.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 263. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June* 11, 1880.

I HAVE been privately informed, on high authority, that Prince Bismarck, who wishes France to enjoy all the national satisfaction possible from her policy towards Greece, which she initiated at the Berlin Congress, intends to give the full support of Germany to the line of frontier—whatever it may be—France may propose in the coming Conferences.

He has also, I am assured, advised the Russian Government to adopt a similar course, but with what success is not yet known, the Russian Ambassador, M. de Sabouroff, not having yet returned to his post from his recent visit to St. Petersburgh.

There is an impression at Berlin that Italy is desirous of raising a South Albanian question, and may therefore raise difficulties and seek to prolong the work of the Conference.

I have also been privately told that the French Government have confidentially informed Prince Bismarck that they hear from the French Embassy in London that Sir Lintorn Simmons is not favourable to the line of frontier they wished to propose, and is likely to resist it at Berlin.

They have, in consequence, appointed their best geographer, Colonel Perrier, to act as Sir Lintorn Simmons' colleague on the Technical Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 278.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 14.)

(No. 265.)
My Lord, *Rome, June* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward a leading article from the "Italie" of this day, on the subject of the Conference at Berlin on the Greek Frontier question. This article propounds that the Italian Representative at the Conference should especially look after the interests of Italy, which are said by the "Italie" to consist in supporting the existence of Turkey, and not in furthering the ambitious designs of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Extract from "L'Italie" of June 10, 1880.

DANS quelques jours, le 13, croyons-nous, va s'ouvrir à Berlin la Conférence que nécessitent les difficultés auxquelles a donné lieu le Traité de Berlin. L'Italie y sera naturellement représentée. Aussi est-ce le moment de se préoccuper de l'attitude qu'y devra avoir notre Plénipotentiaire.

Nous demandons que cette attitude soit conforme aux intérêts de l'Italie, bien que ce soit presqu'une demande hardie que nous faisons là.

En effet, dans cette question de la rectification des frontières de la Grèce, en vue de laquelle est surtout convoquée la Conférence, les intérêts de l'Italie sont les derniers dont nombre de gens s'occupent. On trouve plus poétique d'exécuter des variations sur les aspirations de la Grèce qu'on ne connaît que par Homère, quand on a la Homère.

N'avons-nous pas vu, par exemple, l'autre jour, à la Chambre, ce bon Député Massari briser sa petite lance en faveur de la Grèce. Il a éprouvé le besoin de nous lancer, à ce propos, quelques lieux communs classiques, clichés, enregistrés, timbrés, avec une conviction que nous aimons croire aussi sincère qu'elle a été amusante. Honorable Massari! pourquoi vous perdre dans ce dédale, vous qui êtes si amusant quand vous voulez, vous qui avez l'appel nominal si comique; lâchez, lâchez la poésie, elle n'est pas dans vos cordes. Il en est de même de la politique étrangère, et, cependant, voilà que, la Grèce ne vous suffisant plus, vous interrogez maintenant le Gouvernement sur le Pérou. Le Pérou! C'est beaucoup. Où vous arrêtez-vous?

L'honorable Massari, du reste, n'a fait que suivre l'exemple de beaucoup de braves gens comme lui, qui ne pensent pas par eux-mêmes. Ils sont en arrière de quelque cinquante ans. Pour eux, la Turquie, c'est la barbarie; la Grèce, c'est la civilisation.

La civilisation, en effet, si la civilisation doit être représentée par des Ministres sans Portefeuilles, des Avocats sans causes, des médecins sans clients, et des officiers sans soldats.

La Turquie est la barbarie, si la barbarie consiste à défendre les intérêts de l'Europe contre l'Europe coalisée. Car cette Europe, en effet, qui pousse la Turquie vers l'Asie, ne sait qui mettre à sa place, et le jour où il s'agira de cette question sera toute en feu.

Mais nous nous écartons de l'objet de la Conférence.

En allant à Berlin, nous ne devons donc envisager que nos intérêts, rien que nos intérêts. Quels avantages nous offre l'extension des frontières de la Grèce?

L'école Waddington nous répondra: En favorisant l'extension de la Grèce, vous obtenez la paix en Orient. En effet, la Grèce une fois satisfaite, n'aura plus intérêt à créer des embarras à la Turquie, cette Puissance sera donc tranquille de ce côté.

Voilà le seul, l'unique argument qui jamais a été fourni à l'appui de la demande de rectification. Nous défions qu'on nous en cite un autre et nous proclamons dès maintenant que celui-là est absurde.

Quelle garantie offre l'école Waddington que la Grèce, devenue plus forte, sera désormais tranquille? Aucune. Elle se borne à donner comme une certitude une simple hypothèse que le plus vulgaire bon sens vient détruire.

La vérité est que la Grèce, quand elle aura l'Epire, voudra la Macédoine ou quelque autre province.

Quand nous avons dit que l'argument ci-dessus indiqué était le seul qu'on ait jamais donné en faveur de la rectification, nous aurions pu ajouter qu'il y avait aussi un avorton d'argument: celui-là consiste à nous représenter la Grèce comme la Puissance civilisée capable d'arrêter plus tard la Russie et l'Autriche.

Cela ne se discute pas. Mais quand même on voudrait prendre un seul instant au sérieux cette extravagance, on pourrait se demander quel intérêt il peut y avoir à substituer la Grèce qu'on suppose devoir être un obstacle à la Russie, à la Turquie qui, elle, est déjà un obstacle réel et existant?

Nous ne voyons que la Russie qui puisse avoir cet intérêt, attendu que depuis 200 ans qu'elle est en lutte avec la Turquie, elle n'a pas encore pu en triompher, tandis qu'elle ne ferait des Grecs qu'une bouchée.

Quant à nous, peuples de race Latine qui vivons sur les bords de la Méditerranée, notre intérêt nous porte à désirer et à faire triompher le *statu quo*, et puisqu'aucun engagement pris à Berlin ne nous force, non plus que les autres Puissances, à agir en faveur de la Grèce, abstenons-nous.

N'oublions pas que la Turquie est une Puissance ayant une grande force défensive et aucune force offensive. Nous n'avons donc rien à craindre de son côté.

Rappelons-nous qu'elle consomme et ne produit pas. C'est donc un débouché pour notre commerce.

Songeons que sa marine n'a jamais fait concurrence à la nôtre.

Ne perdons pas de vue que notre Représentant à Constantinople est une autorité et que nos nationaux jouissent d'une juridiction spéciale.

Le jour où une autre Puissance quelconque remplacera en tout ou en partie la Turquie, principalement sur les côtes de l'Adriatique, il y aura: atteinte portée à notre commerce, atteinte portée surtout à notre marine, aggressions à craindre; lorsque Constantinople disparaîtra: suppression de la situation spéciale faite à nos Représentants et à nos nationaux, introduction d'un élément nouveau dans la Méditerranée, d'un élément commercial et maritime qui s'exercera à nos dépens.

Seul le *statu quo* est dans nos intérêts. Nous devons fortifier la Turquie et non pas l'affaiblir, car en l'affaiblissant nous nous affaiblissons nous-mêmes. Cette politique est la seule qui nous convienne. Il faut laisser la poésie aux troubadors.

No. 279.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 475.)
Paris, June 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD last evening the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram *en clair* of yesterday (No. 139), informing me that General Sir Lintorn Simmons would arrive in Paris to-day, and desiring me to make arrangements for his having an interview with M. de Freycinet.

Sir Lintorn Simmons came to see me this morning, and informed me that he was instructed by your Lordship to endeavour to come to an understanding with M. de Freycinet on the Greek frontier question, on the principle of adopting the line proposed by his Excellency with the exception of that part of it which passed to the north of Mount Olympus, and which appeared to lie beyond the limits specified in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

In the afternoon I took Sir Lintorn Simmons to the French Foreign Office to see M. de Freycinet, and they had a long interview, at which were present, besides myself, the Baron de Courcel, Director of Political Affairs, and the two French officers who are to assist the French Ambassador at Berlin during the forthcoming Conference, that is to say, Colonel Perrier, and Captain the Marquis de la Ferronnays, Military Attaché to the French Embassy in London.

M. de Freycinet accepted the proposals made to him, on behalf of your Lordship, by Sir Lintorn Simmons; and a description of the frontier line was drawn up in conformity with them.

One copy of this description was given to Sir Lintorn Simmons to take with him to Berlin, and one was retained by M. de Freycinet.

M. de Freycinet said that he should communicate the description to the Comte de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, by telegraph; and he begged me to ask your Lordship to send by telegraph to Lord Odo Russell instructions to adopt it, and to join his French colleague in supporting it in the Conference.

Sir Lintorn Simmons having assured me that this description of the frontier was in perfect accord with the instructions he had received from your Lordship, I sent you by telegraph on my return home a summary of it drawn up by him, and at the same time transmitted to you M. de Freycinet's request, that Lord Odo Russell might be instructed by telegraph to adopt it.

I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy *in extenso* of the description.

Sir Lintorn Simmons sets out for Berlin this afternoon, taking with him the copy which he received during the interview with M. de Freycinet.

M. de Freycinet has now been good enough to communicate to me the telegram in which he has transmitted the description to the Comte de St. Vallier, and I do myself the honour to send a copy to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 279.

Description of proposed Greek Frontier.

LA frontière suivra le thalweg du Kalamas, depuis l'embouchure de cette rivière dans la Mer Ionienne jusqu'à sa source dans le voisinage de Han Kalibaki, puis les crêtes qui forment la ligne de séparation entre les bassins de la Voioussa, de l'Haliacmon, du Mavronéri et de leurs tributaries au nord, et ceux du Kalamas, de l'Arta, de l'Aspropotamos, du Salamyrias (Penée ancien) et de leurs tributaries au sud, pour aboutir à l'Olympe, dont elle suivra la crête jusqu'à son extrémité orientale sur la Mer Egée.

Cette ligne laisse au sud le Lac de Janina et tous ses affluents ainsi que Metzovo, qui resteront acquis à la Grèce.

Toutes ces indications se rapportent à la Carte de l'Etat-Major Austro-Hongrois.

Le 12 Juin, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 279.

M. de Freycinet to Count de Saint Vallier.

DANS une conversation que je viens d'avoir avec le Général Simmons, en présence de Lord Lyons, M. de Courcel, le Colonel Perrier, et M. de la Ferronnays, nous sommes tombés d'accord sur le tracé suivant, qui a été rédigé séance tenante:

La frontière suivra le thalweg du Kalamas depuis l'embouchure de cette Rivière dans la mer Ionienne jusqu'à sa source dans le voisinage de Han Kalabaki, puis les crêtes qui forment la ligne de séparation entre les bassins de la Voioussa, de l'Haliacmon, et de Mavronéri et leurs tributaires au nord, et ceux du Kalamas, de l'Arta, de l'Aspropotamos, et du Salamyrias (Penée ancien) et leurs tributaires au sud, pour aboutir à l'Olympe, dont elle suivra la crête jusqu'à son extrémité orientale sur la Mer Egée.

Cette ligne laisse au sud le Lac de Janina et tous ses affluents ainsi que Metzovo, qui resteront acquis à la Grèce.

Toutes ces indications se rapportent à la Carte de l'Etat-Major Austro-Hongrois.

Lord Lyons télégraphie à Lord Granville pour lui demander d'envoyer à Lord Odo Russell l'ordre de défendre avec vous ce tracé au sein de la Conférence.

No. 280.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

Londres, le 12 Juin, 1880.

M. le Comte,

JE viens d'être informé par un télégramme du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie a adhéré à la proposition de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne de réunir, le 16 courant, la Conférence des Ambassadeurs qui doit se tenir à Berlin pour régler la question de la délimitation des frontières entre la Turquie et la Grèce.

A cette occasion le Gouvernement du Roi me prévient que M. le Major-Général Sirone et M. le Major Osio, de l'armée Italienne, ont été adjoints à M. le Comte de Launay, Ambassadeur d'Italie, pour prendre part aux travaux de la Conférence.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je saisis, &c.
(Signé) MENABREA.

No. 281.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, June 14, 1880.

WITH reference to change of Ministry, belief is prevalent that, unless sent as Governor-General elsewhere, Said Pasha will continue to exercise a very sinister influence over Sultan, and through him over Government, and that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha cannot overcome it. Mahmoud Nedim Pasha was in vain pressed by the Sultan to accept Premiership. Like Khaireddin Bey, he refuses unless system is changed under which Palace is all-powerful and Ministers impotent.

Cadri received Ambassadors on Saturday. He personally made a fair impression. I saw Ministers on Saturday. Impression I received was that a less aggressive tone prevailed. Answer is being rapidly prepared to identic note. I understand that it will make some substantial proposal as regards Greece, and ask two months' time for settlement of Montenegrin difficulty, and propose some substantial changes for Armenian provinces; but how far Abeddin's draft answer will be finally adopted by Council and Sultan it is impossible to say.

No. 282.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 14, 1880.*

AT my official visit to Cadri Pasha on Saturday he told me the Government relied on England mainly to help them to a solution. He had read identic note. He had seen that it alluded to Lord Salisbury's proposal remaining unanswered. He asked was it too late to answer now, in two days, for instance.

I replied that it was too late. He continued that Abeddin Pasha will ask English mediation on Greek frontier. They would put themselves entirely in our hands. I expressed thanks for confidence shown, but said such a course was impossible. Treaty of Berlin stipulated for collective mediation.

We could not take separate action, nor would it be in the interests of Turkey. I suspect proposal was only a feeler as to our general attitude.

No. 283.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14, 5:30 P.M.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 14, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

I GATHER probable attitude of new Government to the Greek question to be this: They will consent to greater concessions to Greece than former Ministries, chiefly in Thessaly, but want Larissa with a sufficient rayon round it to enable it to exist. They will push matters to extremities if pressed beyond a certain point. If decisions of Conference too hard in their judgment, involving surrender of Albania and of their populations, they would only accept under armed compulsion by the Powers. I foresee gravest troubles from Albanians if Janina or other important place claimed by Albania should be ceded to Greece. Question now not considered to lie between Porte and Greeks but between Albanians and Greeks, and Hellenized Albanians are less disposed to annexation to Greece since prospects have opened out to them of being freed by other means from tyranny of Turkish administration. This latter point deserves the most serious consideration.

No. 284.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14, 2 P.M.)

(No. 8. Most Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 14, 1880, 12·50 P.M.*

I LEARN from a certain source that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires has informed Prince Nicholas that, although the Italian Government has adhered to new proposal about Albanian frontier, he must warn His Highness confidentially to be most careful as to accepting it, as it is not at all likely to have better issue than Count Corti's arrangement.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 285.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14, 1·45 P.M.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 14, 1880, 1 P.M.*

GENERAL BOBRIKOW will be the Military Assistant of Sabouroff at Berlin.

No. 286.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 34, Green's despatch No. 128 of the 29th May, of which he has sent copy to you, contains full particulars of Montenegrin Frontier proposal. Have you received it?

No. 287.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 7·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 6.

Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction report of your successful efforts.

No. 288.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 7·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your sending Colonel Wilson as stated in your telegram No. 36.

In this matter of the inquiry, communicate as much as you think fit to the Russian Ambassador, or if you prefer it telegraph to me and tell me what I should communicate to the Russian Ambassador here, in order to avoid any appearance of unnecessary disunion.

No. 289.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 7·45 P.M.*

THE newspapers state that the identic note was presented on Saturday. Is this so?

No. 290.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 6·40 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 58.

With regard to South Albania, you may make use of Mr. Green's opinions, but should defer any formal communication in the matter for the present.

No. 291.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880, 6·50 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 59.

Refer to my telegram No. 107, from which you will see that the inquiry into alleged ill-treatment of Mussulmans will not now be collective.

Matter had better be left to Mr. Goschen to settle at Constantinople.

No. 292.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14, 6 P.M.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 14, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE at once instructed the Austrian Minister at Cettinjé energetically to support Mr. Green, and he has answered that he had done so, and that the Prince had in the end accepted the new project of frontier.

No. 293.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 76.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government agree with the opinion expressed in your telegram No. 36 of the 13th instant, that at all events, until the Commission appointed by Aleko Pasha to inquire into the burning of the Turkish villages in the Aïdos district shall have made its report, it would not be desirable to institute a separate Consular inquiry into that matter. They, however, approve your proposal, that Colonel Wilson should proceed to Eastern Roumelia to ascertain whether or not there exists in that province an organized system of persecution of Mahommedans and Greeks, and what is the real condition of affairs there.

It is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that in the matter of this inquiry any appearance of unnecessary disunion should be avoided, and if your Excellency should consider that it would be better to communicate with the Russian Government by a channel other than the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, you can inform me by telegraph, and I will communicate to Prince Labanoff so much as you may think it judicious to be said.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 294.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 296.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 14, 1880.*

IN reply to your telegraphic inquiry whether you should ask the Italian Government to authorize their representative at Constantinople to send a Delegate to take part in the collective inquiry into the condition of the Mahommedans in Eastern Roumelia, I have to refer your Excellency to my telegram of the 8th instant, from which you will perceive that the idea of a collective investigation has been abandoned.

Under all the circumstances, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that Mr. Goschen should be left to settle the matter with his colleagues at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 295.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May 30, 1880.*

THE two Russian officers, Yasheroff and Timofeyeff, who were in principal command of the militia and gymnasts during the late expedition into the Kirdjali district, and who are mainly responsible for the outrages committed on the Mussulman population of that part of the province, have been liberated from arrest by order of the Governor-General and placed on parole, subject to their appearing when summoned before the Commission sitting at Iliaskeui.

His Excellency's instructions in this matter were based on Article 79, Appendix 13 to the Organic Statute, which does not admit of officers of the gendarmerie being kept in prison for more than two months, pending a decision in respect to their suspension, dismissal, &c., for breach of discipline.

The officers in question have never been in prison. They had only been under nominal arrest in their own houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 296.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 275.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May 31, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a letter which I have received from the Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff, the minister of the local Protestant Bulgarian community, describing the sufferings of the Christian population in the district of Nevrokop, in Macedonia.

The Reports which I have previously addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the same subject, and which have in several cases been based on complaints made to me personally by some of the sufferers, will confirm the impression which the letter now addressed to me by M. Tonjoroff undoubtedly conveys, namely, that Turkish misrule in Macedonia, particularly in the districts bordering this province and the neighbouring Principality, has reached the utmost limits of endurance, and demands the prompt and effectual application of the principles of government for which provision was made by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 296.

The Rev. J. Tonjoroff to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, May 31, 1880.

Dear Sir,

MY full confidence in your good disposition and readiness to help the sufferers of Macedonia has compelled me to write you again. I must first observe that, although the cruelties which I am going to mention are performed most systematically throughout Macedonia, yet my own information relates to a narrow circle, and to a short and recent period. Most of the following outrages have occurred in the district of Nevrokop.

Thursday before Easter, five Bulgarians, from the village of Godlevo-Razlog, returning from work, were met by two well-armed Turks, who after taking everything they found on their persons, cut off the heads of three of them, and while killing the fourth, the fifth escaped, and reported to the Governor. None of the murderers were found.

The Turkish soldiers at Dobrinishta, Nevrokop, dispose of the property, the families, and the bodies of the poor villagers as they please. Many of the villagers are compelled to leave the place and to seek refuge elsewhere.

Three days after Easter, many well-armed Turks fell upon the village of Cremen, Nevrokop, and after maltreating in every way young and old men and women, at last bound together ten of the principal peasants, and took them to Nevrokop, where they are still in great suffering.

On the 5th of April, an hour from the village of Yakoruda, the Turks killed the son of Ivan Rashkoff at noon. They took from him 10 okes of wheat and the small things they found upon him.

On April 30th, near the same place, a poor Bulgarian shepherd was shot.

On May 12th, Ivan Petroff, of the same village, received two shots from two guns while ploughing his fields.

A short time ago, brigands entered another Christian village in order to take everything the villagers had. They told them to lie down on their backs, and ordering them to open their mouths, they put the muzzles of their guns into them, saying, "Give us money, or we shall fill your stomachs with bullets." The frightened villagers gave up everything precious and dear, and after much suffering were let go.

A band of Turks entered another village, and wanted money from the people.

Not being satisfied with what they found, they suspected that a poor woman had hidden the villagers' money. They therefore took her baby from her breast and began to roast it before her eyes. The agony which the mother endured while witnessing the sufferings and hearing the screams of the child may well be imagined. When the child, half burned, was given back to her, she was already out of her mind.

These two facts were stated to me by an American missionary who is ready to testify to them.

Please do what you can again to liberate the four Bulgarians of Bansko, whom Chukri Bey caught last year (pretending they were rebels), and beat most cruelly, of which I was myself a witness. At one time they were lost from the prisons of Salonica, but you were kind enough to find out that they had been sent into exile at Samsoun and Kutahia. Their poor families now ask you to pity them, and to help their husbands home. The best men of Bansko are ready to be surety for them.

In the district of Nevrokop two bands of Bashi-Bazouks are running riot under the command of two Turks, Mustafa and Kara-Oli, of Nevrokop. As soon as they catch a Bulgarian of importance they take him to some secluded valley, kill him, cut off his ears and take them to the Nevrokop Beys as proof that another Ghiaour has been sent to hell.

These bands, together with the Beys of the towns and the Chiefs (Agas) of the villages, will soon finish the unfortunate Christian population of Macedonia. Besides the continual murders, they very often send messages to the villagers ordering them to send money, clothes, shoes, food, &c., threatening them that if they do not comply they will soon give their uncircumcised bodies to the beasts and birds of prey.

The poor villagers, hearing of these threats and seeing how often the bodies of their brethren are found in the valleys, dare not go out for their work. But within the town another suffering awaits them. They have to pay taxes: "The Sultan wants money." Nobody asks them where or how they are to get the money. The collector of the taxes has only to scream at them, "Give money, you wretch, you Ghiaour, you rebel." And then what follows? Who can describe the sufferings of the Macedonian Rayah at the present moment! They are being cast into prison, beaten, tortured, and deprived of their means of existence.

The Turks know well that they cannot exercise much longer their unheard-of cruelties upon the unprotected Christians of Macedonia. European diplomacy has told them this repeatedly. Therefore, they most Satanically hasten, within the little time left to them, to outrage, torture, rob, and kill those whom Europe is going soon to deliver.

O you friends of liberty and human welfare! I lay before you these sorrowful facts with this one desire and petition: if in truth you are seeking to rescue the oppressed and the perishing (a desire which I have seen practised by your worthy Representatives in Eastern Roumelia), do interfere as soon as possible to put an end to the sufferings of the Macedonian people! They will never forget those who shall have conferred upon them the greatest of all earthly blessings, peace and security.

If, on the other hand, for reasons not known to us, you think that the time has not yet come for the Macedonian to breathe freely, to enjoy his family life unpolluted by the Turk, and to be master of his own property, please let the Turks know it. Let them know that they will have yet enough of time to gather the golden eggs of their goose, and that they need not hasten to kill it in order to seize at once the golden treasure.

For the Macedonian sufferers, your, &c.
(Signed) J. A. TONJOROFF,
Protestant Minister.

No. 297.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, June* 2, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 267 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Maritza" drawing attention to the disadvantages that have resulted from the enactment of Articles 7 and 10 of the Organic Statute, which give to the Sultan practically the right of veto on the nomination of certain high officials by the Governor-General and on the execution of all laws passed by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia.

It states that the greater part of the higher officials and magistrates have not yet been confirmed in their offices by the Porte, and that out of the twelve laws voted at the first Session of the Assembly, only four have been sanctioned by the Imperial Government.

The "Maritza" adds: "But what is still graver, and what may exercise a decisive influence on our relations with the Porte, is the attitude which the Ottoman Government will adopt with respect to the laws which were voted at the last Session of the Provincial Assembly."

The Bulgarian organ further conveys a menace to the effect that the refusal of the Porte to sanction those laws (which relate to the Budget for the current year and the raising of a loan of £T.125,000 in aid of the agricultural classes) may render it impossible for the Local Government to fulfil its engagements towards the province and the Porte, the latter having the right to claim this year, for the first time, the payment of a tribute of £T.125,000.

The latter contingency was foreseen, on other grounds, in my despatch No. 219 of the 27th April last; while, as regards the right reserved to the Sultan under Article 10 of the Organic Statute, I had the honour to submit an opinion upon it in my despatch No. 151 of the 20th March last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 298.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 278. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, June* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter which has been received by a Greek gentleman in this town on the subject of the outrages committed in the Aïdos Balkans and the arrest of the Greek Bailli of Anchiolo on a charge of negligence and complicity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Extract from a Letter received from Bourgas.

(Traduction.) *Le* 27 *Mai*, 1880.

IL y a plus de vingt jours que le Bailli d'Anchialo, M. Démétrius Paschalides, parcourt la partie des Balcans en insurrection pour apaiser les esprits des Musulmans excités par les férocités que les Bulgares ont commises contre les Turcs. Le Bailli a réussi dans sa mission, et grâce à son énergie il parvint à calmer les esprits et à rétablir l'ordre.

Sur ce qui concerne la déprédation, plus d'une douzaine de villages Turcs ont été réduits en cendres. Le coup d'œil est navrant. Outre cette destruction les cruautés commises dans les parages en question surpassent toutes les autres connues jusqu'à présent. Pour avoir une idée de la férocité de ceux qui osent se dire Chrétiens, il suffit de dire qu'une masse de filles, ne pouvant plus se redresser à cause des obscénités qu'elles ont dû supporter, marchent comme des bêtes à quatre pattes.

Les autorités Bulgares ont mis tout leur possible pour cacher ces actes abominables, mais leur but n'a pas réussi. Maintenant que la vérité est connue dans tous ses détails, et qu'ils ne peuvent pas se cacher devant leurs doigts, ils ont pensé de trouver une issue quelconque pour sauver du moins l'honneur national compromis. Or, notre Préfet, M. Yancouloff, s'est imaginé de tramer un complot contre le susdit Bailli, M. Paschalides, l'accuser de négligence et peut-être de complicité, le condamner, ce qui est une conséquence par trop naturelle, et par ce moyen sortir lui-même de l'affaire blanc comme un pigeon, donnant en même temps par la condamnation du Bailli une certaine satisfaction aux Turcs.

Le Procureur Départemental a poursuivi M. le Bailli, qui fut arrêté et amené comme un malfaiteur à Bourgas. Présenté devant le Préfet, celui-ci lui a répondu tout simplement que c'était par erreur qu'on l'avait arrêté. La cause de ce change-

ment opéré dans les desseins de M. Vancouloff était l'arrivée d'un Envoyé spécial d'Aleko Pacha venu de Philippopoli.

M. Paschalides a protesté énergiquement et a demandé l'autorisation de se rendre à Philippopoli afin de prouver que tout ce qu'on lui accuse n'est qu'une pure et noire calomnie.

On dit que M. Paschalides vient d'écrire aussi à M. Chrestovich une lettre à cet effet.

No. 299.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 17.)
Constantinople, June 5, 1880.

My Lord,

MY despatch No. 15 has acquainted your Lordship with the principal provisions of the new "Loi des Vilayets." I now propose to call your Lordship's attention to what appear to me to be its principal defects.

The XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin directs the Sublime Porte to draw up the new "Law," so as to follow the analogy of the Cretan Statutes. The leading features of the Cretan Statutes are (1) a large measure of financial autonomy; (2) a five years' tenure during good behaviour for the Governor-General; (3) the composition of the Tribunals; (4) the legislative power of the Assembly.

The first question which accordingly arises is how far the new "Law" possesses these features. Except in regard to the tenure of the Governor-General it does not appear to do so.

In Crete the whole revenue of the island, except that arising from the customs and salt and tobacco monopolies, is paid into the Provincial Treasury, and controlled by the Provincial Assembly. It is true that in practice the total amount of this revenue is considerably diminished, owing to the land tax, which exists everywhere else in Turkey, never having been levied in Crete. The existence of this exemption, which is maintained by the Treaty of Berlin, is, however, a special question which in no manner affects the correctness of the general proposition that the direct revenue of the island is controlled by the Provincial Assembly. The Cretan financial system is in fact in perfect harmony with the views put forward in the Andrassy note, when the Porte was urged to pass "une loi qui garantirait que le produit des Contributions Directes de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine fût employé dans l'intérêt de la province même, sous le contrôle des organes constitués dans le sens du Firman du 12 Décembre."

Under the new Règlement one-tenth only of the surplus direct revenue of each vilayet is to be allotted to provincial purposes, but whether "the costs of the Local Administration," which are to be deducted from the gross revenue before the surplus revenue is ascertained, are to figure on the Provincial Budget or not, and also what the above term includes, does not clearly appear. This point is evidently one of great importance. If, for example, the revenues of a province were 100,000*l.*, and the costs of local administration 70,000*l.*, the proportion of this sum expended in the province under provincial control would, in the former case, be 73,000*l.*, and in the latter only 3,000*l.* Any fresh expenditure for local purposes is to be met by the imposition of an additional rate, or "centime additionnel." The Assembly is to "decide upon" the Budget, but the following words at the end of Article 38 are ambiguous:—

"At the end of the Session the Budget is to be presented to the Minister of Finances in Constantinople. The Valis are empowered without further authorization to expend the sums voted in the Budget, approved by the Government."

The two special characteristics of the Cretan judicial arrangements are (1) the election of the Judges of the Courts of First Instance; (2) the enactment that the Courts are to be mixed, *i.e.*, that some of the Judges are to be Mussulman and some Christian. Both these provisions are conspicuous by their absence in the new law. How far it may be desirable to introduce the election of Judges into European Turkey is, I am fully aware, a very open question. I may, however, observe that in countries where the judicial standard is low and the salaries small, an elected Judge, as compared with one appointed from above, may be the lesser of two evils. In any case, the representation of the whole population is an indispensable condition of any real judicial reform in Turkey, and I believe it to be a reform of those most ardently desired by all classes.

The legislative powers of the Cretan Assembly are peculiar. If a question is submitted to it absolutely by the Governor-General, the decision of the Assembly becomes *ipso facto* executory, otherwise the Governor-General has a veto on the results of its deliberations. These deliberations are to be directed to the following subjects:—

1. Public Works.
2. Banks.
3. Agriculture and Trade.
4. Education.

(Article 12 of the Règlement Organique, Article 27 of the Règlement concernant l'Organisation du Conseil Général.) The Firman (19 Chevval, 1295) specially directs that a Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure shall be drawn up by the Assembly, and shall be sanctioned by the Sultan, unless inconsistent with the laws of the Empire. The powers of the Assembly under the new law are defined by Articles 24 and 84. The former says the members are "to express their opinions and to propose amendments" to laws and regulations bearing upon the enumerated subjects, while Article 84 says they are "to deliberate" on certain subjects, most of which have been already mentioned in Article 24. But what the consequence of these decisions is to be is nowhere stated. This is doubly important, because the laws relating to the imposition of the taxes come within the terms of Article 24. In speaking of the powers of the Assembly, the Eastern Roumelian Statute uses the far more satisfactory words that certain subjects "seront de la compétence exclusive de l'Assemblée Générale." I may also may observe that no definition is anywhere given of the word "Règlement" (Regulation). This term is constantly appearing throughout the new law, but who is to make these "Règlements," intended to include so much and to limit so considerably the already not excessive liberties accorded by the new law, does not appear.

As instances of this practice, I would call your Lordship's attention more particularly to Articles 64, 110, and 149. Chapter XIV affords an instance of a whole subject, that of judicial organization, being removed from the cognizance of the Commission by a similar appeal to a new "law" about to be promulgated.

Tried, then, by the standard of the Cretan Règlement, the new law appears unsatisfactory; nor is this unfavourable impression diminished upon closer examination.

The new law continues the same bad system of local administration which has done so much to ruin this country. In my previous despatch No. 15 I pointed out that, following the example of the old "Lois sur les Vilayets," it spreads a complicated and at the same time highly centralized system of local government over the land. This system has been imported from France, to the circumstances of which it may perhaps be fitted. It presupposes the existence of a large number of capable and honest men, while, as a matter of fact, it is notorious that one of the chief difficulties in Turkey is to find a sufficient number of persons able to perform the most ordinary duties of administration. Complete efficiency is the only thing which can make such a system endurable. The result in Turkey has been nothing except the creation of an enormous class of officials, sent from Constantinople, who make it their principal business to prevent anything being done, and are an enormous burden to the provinces, which they treat as a pleasant training institution in which to qualify for the high school of inefficiency and corruption which at present exists at the Porte and at the Palace. I believe it would be a very useful reform to abolish the Mutessarif and the Kaïmakam, and to be satisfied with the division of the country, for merely administrative purposes, into vilayets and nahiés, at the same time increasing on the one hand the number of the Inspectors of the Directors of the Vilayet Government, and on the other the duties of Mudirs or Mayors of the nahiés who are elective. The ecclesiastical organization of the vilayets, with their Mukhtars and Hodja Bashis, could be left untouched, but the above-named officials should be deprived of the duties they perform in connection with the collection of taxes. Their powers in this respect have been used as the weapon of every form of extortion and violence. It might be possible, I believe, to improve the class of men who act as Mudirs by a system of grants in aid of their salaries out of the Provincial Treasury.

These changes, added to the improved system of election proposed to be introduced by the new law, and noticed in my despatch No. 15, might, I believe, lay the foundation of a good system of local administration which the Provincial Assembly could from time to time alter and amend according to the necessities of the time.

In connection with this subject I may notice that the provision of the new law (Article 27) by which the Vali when absent is to nominate his *locum tenens* is

objectionable. His natural substitute is the Mustechar, who is very frequently a Christian.

The corvée is abolished by Article 14, but it is reimposed under a new name by Articles 358 *et seq.* I have reason to believe that very strong representations are likely to be made to the Commission from the Adrianople district on this subject.

The greater portion of Chapters XIX and XX appears to be mere padding, and to deal with details coming naturally within the powers conferred upon the Assembly.

The Articles relating to the tithe, by which in theory that tax is abolished, but the present method of collection is subjected to some modifications, but is to be continued by the Government collectors, pending the appearance of a new Règlement. These Articles will simply be used as an excuse for in reality keeping up the old system. The Provincial Assembly should be given the duty of immediately passing a Commutation Act, together with a law for making a cadastre, and another dealing with the subject of vacouf land. I am informed that the practice of farming the taxes, so far as Macedonia is concerned, has been already discontinued, and an expensive and ruinous system of official collection has been substituted. The Articles of the new law are probably intended to perpetuate this system. It is, in any case, undesirable to do anything which would lead to withdraw the question from the cognizance of the Provincial Assembly, to which it naturally belongs.

The provisions—also borrowed from the French Code—by which public functionaries and officials are to be tried by Special Courts, carries with it its own condemnation.

I am unable to see why the Assembly should not be allowed to elect its President, or why its Session should be limited to a fixed term, nor do the frequent elections provided for by Articles 69-71 appear preferable to a general election once in four years. The clauses also relating to the *ex officio* and nominated members will have to be very carefully considered, in order to prevent the representative element, which itself proceeds from a system of indirect election, being entirely neutralized.

Article 21, which relates to the languages to be officially used, is evidently deficient in many important respects.

The following are subjects which it would be desirable to introduce into the Loi :—

(*a.*) Stringent provisions in regard to prisons, so as to avoid the scandals which now exist.

(*β.*) A prohibition of any Imperial Iradé in contravention of rights acquired under the present law.

(*γ.*) A clause relating to the Mussulman Tribunals of the Cheriah, similar to Article 257 in the Eastern Roumelian Statute.

(*δ.*) A clause relating to arrears of taxes similar to that in the Cretan Charter ("Dispositions Particulières").

The subject of gendarmerie is one of those which is mainly left to a new Règlement. An Alay Bey is appointed by Article 64. By Articles 112, 142, and 143 the gendarmerie is to be distributed throughout the cazas and sandjaks, under the control of the Kaïmakams and Mutessarifs. I am not disposed to think this arrangement a good one, and information I have received leads me to suppose that order will be best preserved by putting the gendarmerie under the sole control of one of the Directors at head-quarters, responsible to the Vali and Assembly alone.

It should be the duty of the officers of the gendarmerie to support the civil authorities whenever their assistance is asked for; but I would make them independent of the civil authority in those cases where the latter is not inclined to act through personal fear or national and sectarian prejudice; cases, unfortunately, of too frequent occurrence in this country. The Articles of the Eastern Roumelian Statute appear to me defective in this last respect.

I have not found any wish among the persons representing the local opinion of the Christian inhabitants for the abolition of the Bedel-i-Askerie, or "taxe d'exonération." To raise the question would, in their opinion, be to open a very large subject, with consequences perhaps dangerous to themselves.

The new law borrows the Comité Permanent from the Eastern Roumelian Statute. I am unwilling after so short an experience of its working to pronounce this institution a failure, but I regret to say that I have met with few persons who think it a success. The object of the separation of the powers of the Comité Permanent from those of the Directors or Ministers, borrowed I imagine from the Loi sur les Conseils Généraux of M. Waddington, was to retain the advantage of the services of specialists

—presumably foreigners—in an assured position at the head of the great Departments, and to keep the members of the Assembly clear of those temptations which access to place and power has placed in the way of Members of Parliament in some countries, *e.g.*, Greece, with such disastrous effects. But in Eastern Roumelia that has happened which has happened elsewhere. The power of the purse vested in the Assembly, from which the Comité Permanent emanates, has carried political power with it, and the Directors have been reduced to the position of superior clerks. Some have already resigned in consequence, and the present intention is said to be to give the places of the Directors to the leading men of the country, keeping specialists as Permanent Under-Secretaries to assist them.

It is much to be regretted that the first result of the practical failure of the Comité Permanent should have been the loss by the province of the services of M. Schmidt, the late Financial Director, a gentleman who, in a most difficult position, displayed qualities which commanded the respect and admiration even of those who differed from him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 300.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward a memorandum to your Lordship drawn up by Colonel Blunt, Colonel and Inspector-in-chief of the Gendarmerie in the Vilayet of Adrianople, showing the present situation as regards the attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the gendarmerie and the English officers who command them.

At a time when reforms are being pressed on the Porte, and when an almost unparalleled state of anarchy is prevailing in many parts of European Turkey, it seems a strange moment for the Turkish Government to choose to thwart the action of a police force which, as is clear from the Consular and other reports, is working very satisfactorily and inspiring some confidence in the population.

I propose to remonstrate strongly on the subject, and to state that Her Majesty's Government can have little confidence in any assurance of the Porte of its desire to reform if they persist in their policy of compelling the English officers to resign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I also inclose a memorandum from Captain Swaine on the same subject which is worth your Lordship's perusal.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 300.

Memorandum by Colonel Blunt on Ottoman Gendarmerie.

(Confidential.)

THE Vilayet of Adrianople being the only part of Turkey, with the exception of Crete (autonomous), where the gendarmerie under European officers has been tried, the confidence reposed in it by the population, and its acknowledged beneficial results towards the well-being of the Turkish Empire, induce me to submit the following memoranda to your Excellency :—

It was determined at the Constantinople Conference that a gendarmerie should be constituted throughout Turkey under European officers to obviate the evils of the old zaptieh system which, based upon bribery and corruption, was a recognized source of terror and oppression to the people.

General Baker was given the command in chief, and authorized to appoint officers from England. He accordingly named twelve officers of good standing and service, four as divisional and eight as brigade inspectors to serve under his orders.

In July 1877 a contract for three years was signed between these officers and the Porte. They received the title of Colonel and Bey. The divisional officers £T. 800 a-year; the brigade officers £T. 500. These sums comprised rations, forage, &c.

General Baker subsequently went to the front, taking three of the officers on his personal staff. The gendarmerie question was left in abeyance, and the English officers, with the exception of the four under-named, have been refused all attempt to commence there gendarmerie duties.

In 1879 Colonel Allix, Brigade Inspector, was ordered to Crete. A Firman was granted to him by the Sultan investing him with full authority for his work.

His Excellency Reouf Pasha, appointed Governor-General of Adrianople, requested that Colonel Blunt, Divisional Inspector, and Colonel Whitty, Brigade Inspector, should be sent to organize and command a gendarmerie for his vilayet.

Colonel Blunt at once applied for the above-said Firman, Reouf Pasha strongly endorsing his demand, as absolutely requisite for the recognition of his authority. The Firman was refused by Osman Pasha on the pretext that it had been granted to Crete being autonomous.

Colonel Blunt, finding he could rely on Reouf Pasha's entire support, undertook the command of the gendarmerie for the Vilayet of Adrianople. Perfect tranquillity was maintained during the agitation consequent on the Russian departure, and from that time, notwithstanding every obstacle from Stamboul authorities and local intrigues, Colonel Blunt has succeeded in establishing order and security wherever the limited force under his command allowed of gendarmerie being placed.

The thorough confidence of the population has been evinced by repeated demands for gendarmes from all parts of the vilayet. In most instances their request being accompanied by a wish that the military, in whom they express great distrust, should be removed.

On these matters your Excellency is referred to Consular despatch No. 9, February 29, 1880, to Sir H. Layard, containing Colonel Blunt's yearly Report to his Excellency Reouf Pasha, with all details bearing on the gendarmerie, the force required for the safety of the vilayet, their duties, instructions, &c.

Mr. Calvert, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, forwarded the same to Her Majesty's Government recommending that pressure be brought to bear on the question.

Subsequent to that report Colonel Blunt has received renewed petitions from various parts of the vilayet, including the Kaïmakam of Ouzoum-Keupru, forwarding the names of several villages whose inhabitants offered to subscribe for the erection of guard-houses ("karakols") for the use of the gendarmes.

Had it not been for Reouf Pasha's invariable and determined support, Colonel Blunt must have relinquished his task. The Firman officially investing him with the requisite authority having been refused, the continual opposition from Stamboul and jealousy of the military would have been impossible to surmount, they recognizing him only as a contract officer, considered themselves justified in every endeavour to thwart the execution of his duties.

The contract being on the point of expiration, Osman Pasha recently sent a Circular informing the English officers that it would not be renewed, offering them fresh conditions, evidently not intended for their acceptance, and entirely doing away with the purpose Europe had in view when she pointed out the necessity of a gendarmerie supervised by Europeans.

The Circular runs thus:—

"To

"The term fixed by your contract which you drew with the Minister of Police, dated the 1st July, 1877, expires on the 1st July, 1880. As was communicated verbally at the Department of the Gendarmerie on the 19th April last, in case it should not suit us to retain your services at the expiration your contract you will be allowed a monthly salary of 2,500 piastres (under 21*l.*). This salary will no longer be received through the Ottoman Bank, but be paid through the Malich, the same as to other functionaries. In case you should wish to accept to serve the Government under the conditions above named of 2,500 piastres salary, to be paid through the Malich, you must send in a report relative to your acceptation, accompanied by a statement signed by the Minister of War, giving branch of service, rank attained, and reason of leaving. This Report must be sent in one month before the expiration of your contract, that is to say, 1st June next (o. s.), as is commanded by a recent Imperial Iradé from His Majesty the Sultan. To this effect you are now officially informed.

(Signed) "OSMAN."

From verbal information given at sundry interviews the intention of Osman Pasha is to cause the European officers to revert to the same rank in the Turkish gendarmerie as they held in the English army at the time they left that service, the result of this would be instead of a gendarmerie commanded by European officers, one commanded by Turks having a few Europeans in subordinate grades.

The sum offered is hardly consistent with the position of a British officer in supreme command of the gendarmerie of a vilayet. It distinctly infers that no rations will be given, and no mention is made of travelling allowance—an item absolutely necessary.

The rumoured departure of these officers has much disturbed the population, *vide* Consul Calvert's despatch No. 24 of the 27th May to Sir H. Layard, including despatch No. 5 of the 12th May to Lord Granville.

Most of the Consuls, notably the French and Greek, have written to their respective Ambassadors, and on leaving Adrianople for a few days in order to see your Excellency, I was presented with the accompanying address signed by every Consul in that place. The heads of the ecclesiastical body have presented a petition to the Vali to be forwarded, requesting, for the safety of the Christians, that the gendarmerie should continue under the command of Europeans.

Reouf Pasha is most anxious that the military force of the vilayet should be reduced and a gendarmerie, as stated in despatch No. 9 from Mr. Calvert, inclosing Colonel Blunt's Report, substituted.

Under the arrangements stated in the new Budget the cost of the army in the vilayet would more than absorb its entire revenue.

Reouf Pasha has on several occasions confidentially laid the matter before his Excellency Sir Henry Layard stating the utter futility of his appealing to Osman Pasha, who systematically opposes every representation concerning the gendarmerie.

It is evident no European officer could carry out the duties of his position, or hold sufficient weight in the Councils, of which he forms a part, unless he were provided with a Firman conferring upon him the necessary rank and authority, nor would it be possible for him to undertake his task without an adequate allowance, paid irrespective of the authorities of the vilayet.

With your Excellency's permission, I would beg to state for an officer in the actual command of the gendarmerie of a vilayet, the rank of Liva General of Brigade at the very least is absolutely necessary.

(Signed) WALTER F. BLUNT, *Divisional Inspector, Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie.*

Les Soussignés tiennent à reconnaître par le présent le zèle et l'activité dont le Colonel Blunt a fait preuve comme Commandant de la Gendarmerie du Vilayet d'Andrinople; ils sont heureux en même temps de lui témoigner toute leur satisfaction pour le concours empressé qu'il leur a constamment prêté afin de les aider à protéger leurs nationaux respectifs.

Andrinople, le 28 Mai, 1880.

(Signé) N. GENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
F. R. J. CALVERT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*
M. E. FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
N. KARIONOW, *Consul de Russie.*
A. VERNAZZA, *Vice-Consul d'Espagne.*
FEISKY, *Gérant du Consulat d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
H. BADETTI, *Vice-Consul de Danemark et Gérant du Consulat de Belgique.*
G. BADETTI, *Vice-Consul de Suède et de Norvége.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 300.

Memorandum by Captain Swaine respecting English Officers in the Gendarmerie.

THERE are at present eleven English gentlemen formerly officers in our army, who are engaged by the Turkish Government as "Inspectors of Gendarmerie." Of these four are "divisional" and the remainder "brigade" inspectors, and are paid £T. 800 and £T. 500 a-year respectively.

A regular contract with them was entered into for three years. This term expires in the course of this summer, between the months of July and October.

The employed are:—

Colonel Allix in Crete;
Colonel Blunt at Adrianople;
Colonel Whittey at Adrianople, as Assistant;
Colonel Norton in Kurdistan (Bitlis); and
Colonel Briscoe, as Aide-de-camp to Saïd Pasha at Aleppo.

The remainder, Colonels Shuldham (who in the absence of Baker Pasha is the Senior), Charles Baker, V.C., M. Fawcett, A. Fawcett, and Studdy, are unemployed in Constantinople, and Colonel Synge is living on his farm in Macedonia (for the moment at Therapia).

Colonel Coope was ordered to Erzeroum three months ago, but refused to leave without a Firman, and without money to defray his travelling expenses. He was consequently dismissed.

These officers hold that Firmans are absolutely necessary. Without them their authority would be nil, and only result in the force being discredited.

General Valentine Baker (Baker Pasha), obtained a Firman for Colonel Allix, and, as long as the money lasted, this officer did good work in Crete. None of the other employed ones have Firmans, and Colonel Blunt, though he has performed excellent service at Adrianople, thanks to the courteous and loyal action of Reouf Pasha, the Governor-General of the province, has professed himself utterly helpless were he not thus strongly backed up.

Sir Henry Layard has repeatedly urged upon the authorities to provide Firmans for all these officers, and to employ them. The former has invariably been refused, the latter promised, but not carried into effect.

The position now is this:—

The contract with some of the officers expires already early in July, and the Government has offered them the option of entering the Turkish army with the rank they formerly held in our service, with a consolidated pay of 2,500 piastres per month. There will be no contract with them as at present, and their pay will be given them out of the Treasury, and be no longer guaranteed by the Bank. They have to make up their minds and give an answer to this offer in three weeks.

The officers think that, having held the rank of Colonel in the Turkish gendarmerie, they cannot accept a subordinate position, which in every instance would be the case were they to be placed in the rank which they held in our service at the time they retired from it. Also, as the officers in the Turkish army are seldom or never paid, they run a similar risk, unless their pay is guaranteed to them as it is at present. Their strongest point, however, is, that were they to accept the offer, and enter the army on an equality with, and as simple Turkish officers, they would lose their speciality.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Captain and Military Attaché.

Constantinople, May 28, 1880.

No. 301.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 17. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

THE audience for the presentation of my credentials to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan was, after some delay, fixed for Thursday last, the 3rd instant.

The delay was caused by a difficulty raised by Sawas Pasha, the Foreign Minister, as to the short address delivered on these occasions by the Ambassador. According to the usual custom, I had given him a copy of my proposed speech at my interview with him on the previous Saturday. He read the French translation in my presence, and made no observation. It was not till three days afterwards that he made a communication to Sir Alfred Sandison, the First Dragoman of this Embassy, on the subject. He then explained that it appeared to him that there were phrases in the speech which might make it necessary for the Sultan either to make a more or less political reply at the public audience, or simply to refer the matter to his Ministers, that the

precedents were all in the direction of neutral speeches at these first public audiences, that he entreated me to substitute phrases of the more usual complimentary character, and that I could then request an immediate private audience, at which I should be able to use the precise language which I had proposed, and leave the Sultan an exact copy of my words, if I pleased to do so. My proposed speech contained nothing which, in my judgment, was not perfectly suitable for the occasion; but a controversy on the subject meant a delay on entering on my functions which I thought would be very detrimental to the public interest. Till my audience had been granted and my official position thus established, I could not commence the execution of my instructions. I further considered a controversy on the question of form undesirable, and was glad to have an opportunity at once of informing the Sultan personally and fully of the character of my mission.

Accordingly I caused Sawas Pasha to be informed that, on condition of my having my audience on the next day (Thursday), and on a private audience being granted me immediately after the public reception, I would make a more formal speech on the public occasion. As it, however, seemed doubtful whether the Porte were not endeavouring to gain time, and it was essential to bring matters to a point; and further, as his Excellency Sir Henry Layard and I equally felt that our joint presence here, under the circumstances, placed us both in an anomalous condition, Sir Henry Layard deemed it best to leave Constantinople at once, without waiting to present me, according to the original intention of your Lordship. I informed your Lordship of this decision by telegram.

No further delay occurred. The audience was fixed for Thursday, and I was received on that day by His Majesty with the usual ceremonies.

I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my speech and a translation of His Imperial Majesty's answer. At the close of His Majesty's speech he inquired after the health of Her Majesty the Queen, and the ceremony was about to close, when I expressed the wish to be received in private audience, to which His Majesty signified his assent. Sawas Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, interpreted at the interview, and Sir Alfred Sandison was present as Dragoman of the Embassy.

As His Majesty subsequently requested me to put the substance of what I said into writing I drew up a memorandum, which will acquaint your Lordship with the whole tenour of the conversation. I have described in telegram No. 13 the silence and reserve maintained by His Majesty throughout.

Your Lordship will have observed from my telegrams that the Sultan has been greatly alarmed by the language held by your Lordship to Musurus Bey and communicated by me textually to His Majesty. Musurus Pasha had not communicated the message to the Sultan himself. He gave me some vague explanations about decyphering and delays. He has since laid the telegram before the Sultan, and told me the language was practically identical.

Two very interesting points have been made clear by my interviews with Musurus Pasha (who has been to see me three times and stayed two hours on each occasion): firstly, that he has not enlightened the Sultan with any degree of clearness on the present policy of Her Majesty's Government; secondly, that the language held as to the responsibility of the Sultan, brought by me to the Sultan's own ear without being toned down, has had more effect in bringing him to realize the gravity of the situation than any other step.

The substance of Musurus Pasha's remarks to me has been that he had prepared everything most pleasantly for my reception; that the Sultan had at first been alarmed at my mission, but that he had represented to His Majesty that I should certainly be most conciliatory; that Her Majesty's Government were most friendly, and that there would be no difficulty whatever in an amicable arrangement satisfactory to all; that the Montenegrin difficulty was not created by the Porte; that in the Greek Frontier question the Porte would not object to giving a large slice of territory to Greece, provided Janina, Larissa (which was a forest of minarets) and Metzovo, all-important for purposes of communication, were left to the Turks, and that as to reforms the Asiatic provinces could be brought under a similar arrangement to those prepared for the European provinces, where the Commissioners were now at work preparing Statutes. He repeated continually: "Tout cela s'arrangera."

I need not trouble your Lordship with my replies beyond stating that I declined to discuss the Greek frontier, and that as to the reforms, the Commissioners dealing with them were being thwarted by interminable delays, while the "Projet de Loi" itself was, I believed, very unsatisfactory. But I dwell on the evidence, which I discovered at every turn, of an absolute indifference, if not worse, as to the reforms, the

breaking up of the English Gendarmerie, the recall of Valis who were working well; the impunity of those who were committing abuses, the impossibility of transacting any business with the present Ministers; above all, the constant appointment of officials and great officers undeserving of confidence. Musurus Pasha replied, with some anxiety, that he had understood from your Lordship that my mission was to deal with the unexecuted portion of the Treaty of Berlin, and he greatly regretted and deprecated the language I was holding.

I answered to the effect that it was the most essential point of my mission to bring home to the mind of the Sultan and the Porte that the desire of England to see the maintenance of the present territorial limits of the sovereignty of the Sultan was dependent on the execution of reforms, and that, if reforms were not made, England had no special and separate interests to lead her to save Turkey from her ruin. I have little hope that any important part of this conversation will reach the Sultan's ears, but as, apparently, Musurus Pasha sees the Sultan constantly, and has been chosen on these two or three occasions by the Sultan to see me on his behalf, I thought it right to be very explicit, so as to remove, if possible, from Musurus Pasha's own mind, his very erroneous impressions as to the nature of the situation.

With regard to the second point, namely, the personal responsibility of the Sultan, Musurus Pasha endeavoured to argue at great length that the Sultan never acted except on the advice of his Ministers or his Council; that he was not a despotic or absolute Sovereign; that a Constitution existed, and that it was impossible for Her Majesty's Government to place such a responsibility on him as was suggested by the language which had been used. He pleaded earnestly for a change of language on this head.

I received a somewhat interesting confirmation both of the anxiety of the Sultan on this question, and of the foregone intention to make such a reply as Musurus Pasha attempted on the Sultan's behalf, in the statement made to me, that the Sultan deposits and puts by with the greatest care every decision of his Council on which he issues an order; thus, in fact, keeping evidence at hand to disprove the charge of responsibility.

But the arguments on the other side are so obvious and conclusive, that it is needless to trouble your Lordship with any description of my reply. The main point turned on the position of the Ministry to the Sultan. The Sultan kept a Ministry in power who were defeating all reforms, and defying all good influences. If he did so, the responsibility was his; or again, supposing the Ministry to be in favour of reforms, how could they venture to propose them against the Sultan's will, with the possibility of his sending them into exile if they stood too firm.

I did not state to his Excellency that a few hours before he came to complain of the Sultan being held responsible, the present Prime Minister and Foreign Minister had hinted to me in the broadest terms that they were personally in favour of the revival of the Constitution.

Your Lordship is acquainted with the custom that, after the presentation of the Ambassador's credentials, he pays a visit in state to the Porte, and is then visited half-an-hour later by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister at the Embassy. These visits are considered absolutely formal. On this occasion, however, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, after the usual common places had been exhausted, asked permission to break through precedent and to discuss business. They were aware, they said, that I must be anxious to hasten the execution of my mission, and would therefore be glad of an exchange of ideas. The impression conveyed to my mind was that they were anxious to elicit from me what would be demanded in the identic note; but in view of my having to act with the other Signatory Powers, I did not feel myself at liberty to enter into details as to what would be the demands of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Montenegro and to the Greek frontier, and on these topics I confined myself to asking questions. I took the opportunity of stating to the Prime Minister, with whom I had not conversed before, the broad lines of the present attitude of Her Majesty's Government in similar terms to those in which I had expressed myself to the Sultan. When I came to the subject of reform and to the suspension of the Constitution, the Prime Minister told me, in a somewhat mysterious manner, that public opinion was shaping itself in the direction of a revival of the Constitution. I then asked him bluntly, "But what does the Turkish Government say? What am I to report to my Government?" On which Said Pasha answered, after a pause, "The Government associates itself with the opinion of the public" (Le Gouvernement s'associe à l'opinion publique). I asked him why, in that case, nothing was done? By a stroke of the pen the Constitution could be revived. On this, Said Pasha replied

that there were difficulties in the way. He conveyed to me, though not in words, that the difficulties lay elsewhere. As a very curious commentary on the conversation, I refer your Lordship to the inclosed secret memorandum of Sir Alfred Sandison, reporting a conversation between Sawas Pasha and himself (of which I was not aware when I saw the Ministers), in which he made overtures to the effect that if Her Majesty's Government would in any way guarantee Said Pasha and Sawas Pasha against exile to an unhealthy part of the Empire, Her Majesty's Government would not have reason to complain of them as regards reforms.

At the conclusion of my conversation, and still speaking of the reform question, and the difficulties in their way, and also referring to the communication made by me to the Sultan on what he has called his personal responsibility, I said: "I believe that you yourselves believe that the communication has been of service to yourselves." Said Pasha replied that he hoped it would not be the last service I should render to Turkey.

I have informed your Lordship by telegraph of the letter from the Sultan's Secretary, brought to me by Musurus Pasha. I have the honour to inclose a copy. The Sultan wishes to be informed in writing of the exact interpretation to be put upon several phrases used by your Lordship to Musurus Bey. I have by telegraph suggested the answers to be given. The only really important point is the reply to the question as to whether the Constitution of Turkey admits the personal responsibility of the Sultan. I am of opinion that the question affords an opportunity for suggesting both the revival of Constitutional forms and a modification in the Constitution itself. To all intents and purposes the Sovereign must be held morally responsible if he claims and exercises the right of exile in the case of Ministers who displease him if he allows no freedom of debate, but exiles those who have spoken most boldly, and if he knowingly retains a Ministry in power who command no confidence whatever, and whom no one else can displace. Musurus Pasha deprecates such language in the strongest terms. It is not in accord, he thinks, with the tone for which he had prepared the Sultan. He also says the Sultan will be led to believe that his throne is endangered, and that other Powers will hold language to him which will thwart the influence of England. I replied that influence was of no avail unless it led to practical results. Detailed evidence received by me day by day showed the absence of all desire to meet our wishes and demands, or to fulfil the promises made to us.

I do not wish to conceal from your Lordship the gravity of the answer I have suggested, especially looking to the peculiar temperament and nervous state of the Sultan; but after most anxious thought I have deemed it right to recommend this course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—Musurus Pasha has come to me again from the Sultan with a friendly message, of which the main purport was that he still wishes for an answer in writing. As his Excellency travelled over the same ground again, I have only to report of this interview that he showed me the telegram he had received from Musurus Bey conveying your Lordship's message. On seeing it I pointed out to him that your Lordship had said that England desired the maintenance of the supremacy of the Sultan if not dissociated from the prosperity of his subjects. The message of Musurus Bey omitted the "if," and said simply "not separated from the prosperity." He replied quite frankly that Musurus Bey had left out the "if," "pour adoucir un peu." I have troubled your Lordship with this small incident, notwithstanding the length of this despatch, as showing conclusively that it is difficult for the Sultan to hear the truth.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 301.

Speech of Mr. Goschen on presenting his Credentials to His Majesty the Sultan.

THE Queen my august Sovereign having been graciously pleased to appoint me as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the distinguished honour of placing my credentials in your Imperial Majesty's hands.

Having accepted this responsible mission, my first duty will be to fulfil it to the

satisfaction of my Sovereign, while, at the same time, the friendly relations which exist between England and Turkey will inspire me with the wish to be of service to your Majesty and to your people.

Owing to my Parliamentary position in England my stay in Turkey will necessarily be limited, but your Imperial Majesty will allow me to add that, convinced of the lively desire of your Majesty to promote the general well-being of your subjects without distinction of race or creed, I shall rejoice if, during the time of my stay, my efforts should have contributed to bring about that result.

Inclosure 2 in No. 301.

Reply of His Majesty the Sultan.

LA nomination de son Excellence en qualité d'Ambassadeur auprès de nous étant basée sur les sentiments d'égard et de bienveillance que professe Sa Majesté la Reine pour notre personne, a causé notre satisfaction.

Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur n'ignore pas comme nous quelles sont les réformes dont notre Empire a besoin à la suite des malheurs qu'il a traversés.

Notre plus vif désir c'est de voir s'accroître la prospérité et l'ordre de notre Empire et de notre peuple, en rapport avec les nécessités du siècle. Tous les efforts tendent vers ce but.

Les qualités personnelles de son Excellence sont pour nous un sûr garant qu'elle servira de moyen pour mettre bien en œuvre les dispositions bienveillantes dont le Gouvernement Britannique, notre ancien ami, est animé à l'égard de notre Empire et qui ont été toujours appréciées, et pour consolider les liens de l'amitié sincère qui unissent les deux Gouvernements.

Inclosure 3 in No. 301.

Memorandum given to the Sultan of his Conversation with Mr. Goschen on views of Her Majesty's Government as regards Turkey.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan having requested me to put in writing the observations which I had the honour to make at the private audience granted to me yesterday, I proceed to put on record the substance of the conversation.

I first informed His Majesty that I had been personally charged by the Queen to convey to His Majesty the expression of her friendly good wishes for his welfare and prosperity, and her hope that His Majesty would fulfil the promises he had made to England.

Next referring to the special character of my mission, I stated that I had been selected for the post of Ambassador at the present moment, because having been a colleague of the Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Granville, when they were last in power, and having been on terms of intimate friendship with them since, Her Majesty's Government had thought that I should be able to convey with better effect and greater accuracy the friendly counsels which they desire to tender to His Majesty and his Government. I added that it was my earnest hope that during my stay in Turkey I might contribute, in conjunction with the Representatives of the other Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, toward the settlement of questions still pending under that Treaty, which the interests of His Majesty and those of Europe equally required to be solved; that it was the distinct view of Her Majesty's Government that the prosperity and contentment of His Majesty's people could only be obtained by the prompt solution of those questions, and by the execution of those reforms which were so needed to improve the conditions of the countries and races subject to His Imperial Majesty's rule.

His Majesty replied that the difficulties attending the settlement of the pending questions connected with the Treaty of Berlin were as well known to myself as to His Majesty and to Europe in general, that he understood the questions still open were three in number, and that he very much hoped to see them brought to a satisfactory conclusion through the assistance of England, which was in a position to bring about such a result, and that he would at once make a communication to his Ministers commanding them to give these matters their serious attention with a view to their being settled. In reply to the observation of His Imperial Majesty, that the points

were three in number, I stated that my object at this first audience, which His Majesty had granted me, was not to touch any question in detail, but rather to state to His Majesty the general views by which Her Majesty's Government were animated. I continued that I could not better do so than by repeating to His Majesty language which had just been used by Lord Granville to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in London, when he expressed his thanks and those of Mr. Gladstone for the gracious message sent them by His Majesty through Musurus Pasha, a communication by which they had been much gratified. His Lordship had desired the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires to convey their appreciation of His Majesty's message, and at the same time had made some observations of which, in order to ensure perfect accuracy on my part, I ventured to read a textual translation to His Majesty.

"It was the desire of Her Majesty's Government to see the Sultan's supremacy maintained, and the territorial limits of that supremacy not further contracted than had been done by the Treaty of Berlin, if that supremacy were not dissociated from the security and prosperity of the populations under His Majesty's rule.

"It was essential for the continuance of the Sultan's authority that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out in their spirit as well as in their letter. There could be no doubt of the success which, with the enlightened co-operation of His Majesty, would attend the efforts of Europe to attain so desirable an end."

The Sultan was all powerful. "It would be to His Majesty that my Government would feel indebted if their requests were complied with. But if they should be disregarded, of which my Government trusts there is no chance, it would be painful to Her Majesty's Government to think that it was the Sultan who had not been willing to agree to proposals which had been made in the most friendly spirit as regards the welfare of the Ottoman Empire."

I then proceeded to explain to His Majesty that he could rely with the utmost confidence on the policy of England at this juncture being free from the pursuit of any selfish designs. Our counsels were absolutely disinterested in the sense of seeking any special separate interests, but we were interested like the other Powers in seeing peace established in the Balkan Peninsula in the promotion of the welfare of the population, Mussulman as well as Christian, in the Ottoman Empire, and in the execution of a Treaty to which all the Great Powers had been parties.

The policy of my Government, I repeated, was the maintenance of His Majesty's sovereignty, provided indispensable reforms were carried out. I pointed to the condition of Armenia, where, according to the reports I had received, affairs were in a deplorable state. I endeavoured to convey to His Majesty my sense of the heavy calamities with which that country had been visited, calamities of various kinds which no one no doubt had lamented more than His Majesty. I spoke of the prevailing anarchy. I then again repudiated emphatically any notion which might have been suggested to His Majesty, that Her Majesty's Government entertained secret or ambitious views or designs on any part of His Majesty's dominions, and that those who endeavoured to inspire any doubt in His Majesty's mind on the subject were bad friends of His Majesty. Her Majesty's Government desired to associate themselves in common action with the other European Powers, but simply in the common interest. I concluded that I hoped I might always address His Majesty with the greatest frankness, and that I would not abuse his permission to do so. His Majesty, having listened with much patience to my observations, requested me to furnish him with a memorandum recapitulating all that I had told him during the audience, so that he might know what was required of him, and might be able the better to remember what had been said. I repeated that my object in this audience had not been to formulate any special programme, but to explain to him the spirit in which Her Majesty's Government desired to act, but I gladly complied with the wish of His Majesty to prepare him such a memorandum, and I accordingly submit it to His Majesty in as accurate a form as is possible, having regard to the length of the conversation.

(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

June 4, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 301.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

(Secret.)

ON Friday night, the 4th instant, Sawas Pasha stated to me, confidentially, that a week previous to your Excellency's official audience of the Sultan the Prime Minister had laid before his colleagues a programme of reforms, of which he made them feel the extreme importance at this particular juncture.

That the fact having come to the Sultan's knowledge, His Majesty had sent for Said Pasha on Wednesday night, the 2nd instant, and had had a very warm discussion with the Prime Minister, during which his Highness, added Sawas Pasha, firmly maintained his views as regards the necessity of the reforms in question. The interview ended by Said Pasha leaving his master in a state of irritation and displeasure.

The next day took place your Excellency's audience. I need not recapitulate all that occurred at it, beyond adding that the Sultan sent for Sawas Pasha, shortly after your departure from the Palace, and taxed him with having recommended you to use the language which you did in regard to the reforms and pending questions connected with the Treaty of Berlin. Sawas Pasha having emphatically repudiated the accusation, the Sultan simply replied, "Then the Porte must have done the mischief," wishing thereby to implicate Said Pasha also in this matter.

In pursuance of this state of things I found Sawas Pasha in a great state of anxiety about his own and Said Pasha's personal safety, and was requested by him to endeavour to obtain from your Excellency an assurance that he in particular will not be sent into exile in consequence of the Sultan's unfounded suspicions arising from what was said at the private audience.

On my assuring Sawas Pasha that I would mention the subject to your Excellency, adding, in the meanwhile, that the words you had used at the audience might be the means of saving the Empire, his Excellency went on to say that, should your Excellency and Her Majesty's Government be prepared to save him and the Prime Minister from exile into some unhealthy part of the country, you will have no reason to complain of them with regard to the introduction of the reforms which they feel are so greatly needed for the safety and general amelioration of the present condition of the Empire.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

June 6, 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 301.

Ali Fuad to Mr. Goschen.

Le 5 Juin, 1880.

Excellence,

SA Majesté a reçu hier par l'intermédiaire de Musurus Pasha, la copie de la dépêche du Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à Londres, à la date du 1er Juin, et aujourd'hui à Midi, à la Franque, par l'intermédiaire du premier Ministre, le discours officiel de votre Excellence, tant en Anglais qu'en Français, prononcé dans l'audience de réception de votre Excellence, en date du 3 courant.

La lecture de ces deux documents a préoccupé fortement Sa Majesté Impériale, qui désirait avoir quelques explications, par écrit, sur les trois points suivants.

Votre Excellence dit d'abord que les limites territoriales de la suprématie de Sa Majesté Impériale ne seront pas diminuées au delà des conditions du Traité de Berlin, "si cette suprématie n'est pas séparée de la sécurité et de la prospérité des populations gouvernées par sa Majesté." Votre Excellence comprend-elle par ces paroles que "si la sécurité et la prospérité des populations dans une province de l'Empire Ottoman lui paraissait compromise," ce fait seul entraînerait l'autonomie?

Plus loin, votre Excellence déclare que les conditions du Traité de Berlin "devront être exécutées aussi bien dans l'esprit qui les a dictées, qu'à la lettre." Sa Majesté peut-elle compter que l'exécution ne sera pas exclusivement en faveur des autres Puissances?

Enfin, votre Excellence affirme que s'il n'était pas donné suite aux recommandations du Cabinet Britannique, la responsabilité incomberait tout entière à Sa Majesté. La constitution de l'Empire admet-elle cette responsabilité?

Sa Majesté regrette vivement le retard pris à l'exécution de tout ce qui est

relatif au Traité de Berlin. Elle espère, dans cette circonstance, pouvoir compter sur l'équité et sur le concours amical et désintéressé du Gouvernement Britannique.

Je prie, &c.

(Signé) ALI FUAD.

No. 302.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 18.)

Therapia, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by my telegrams Nos. 7 and 18 of the 2nd and 25th instant, that it was rumoured that Midhat Pasha, the Vali of Syria, had tendered his resignation of that post to the Sultan, which resignation, however, His Majesty had declined to accept.

Your Lordship is aware that it has been the custom, in the case of high personages who have incurred the mistrust or displeasure of the Sultan, to send them into a kind of honourable exile from the capital, although in many cases they have been afterwards nominated to important posts in the Turkish provinces.

Midhat Pasha is a notable instance of this, but his resignation at this moment, although it has been ascribed to dissatisfaction with his position, and his inability to carry out the measures which he considers necessary to reform the administration in the province of which he was named Governor-General for five years, in consequence of the opposition of the Sultan and his advisers, might possibly be interpreted as an endeavour on his part to return to Constantinople to watch events at the present juncture.

If this supposition be true, the Sultan's refusal to accept his Highness' resignation would seem to imply that His Majesty has determined that his services will not be required nearer home.

A report has reached me this evening that the Sultan has made up his mind to dismiss Said, Sawas, Osman, and Cadri Pashas, and that the three first will be replaced in the posts of Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Minister of War respectively by Abeddin Pasha, late Vali of Sivas, and subsequently of Salonica, by Munif Pasha, the present Minister of Public Instruction, and by Said Pasha, actually Vali of Aleppo, and commonly known by the soubriquet of "English Said."

Abeddin Pasha, as your Lordship is aware, has been very favourably reported of by Her Majesty's Consuls-General in Anatolia and Salonica as an able and vigorous administrator. I am told that the Porte removed him from Sivas to Salonica in consequence of the critical state of affairs in Macedonia, while others believed that his removal was due to his reforming activity. He is by birth an Albanian, and the Sultan, it is said, expects that, by raising him to the high position of Prime Minister, he will be able, by his prestige and influence over the Albanians, to bring about a peaceful solution of the Montenegrin question.

He is, however, little known or experienced in public affairs in the country, and only two years ago was the Government Inspector of the Galata Exchange; the Sultan may, therefore, hope that, while giving an apparent satisfaction to public opinion in England, his new Prime Minister will not offer an unbending resistance to the wishes of his Imperial Master.

Another version is, that it has been determined by the Council of State to form Monastir, Prisrend, and Janina into one vilayet, under a single Governor-General, and that Abeddin Pasha is destined for the post. Such an union of these vilayets would be intended as a counter-move to any proposals with regard to the Turco-Greek frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 303.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 19.)

Therapia, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

AS it was impossible to have an official meeting of the Representatives of the Powers who have agreed to present an identic note before M. Tissot had presented his credentials, and as his audience only took place to-day, some delay has unavoidably

ensued in the execution of my instructions. Our first meeting will be held to-morrow. In the meantime I have had the opportunity of a confidential exchange of views with my various colleagues, and I have also received instructions from your Lordship which will affect both the form and the substance of the identic note.

With regard to the Greek Frontier question, I presume that no difficulty will arise as to the phraseology of the note to be presented to the Porte, the instructions to my various colleagues being precise on this point. Nor, after so short a stay in Constantinople, do I feel competent to submit any further materials for your Lordship's judgment, and for the guidance of Her Majesty's Representative at Berlin, on the main question than those already in the possession of the Foreign Office. I am only bound to state that the events in Albania, in connection with the cession to Montenegro, have undoubtedly suggested new difficulties and new complications in many quarters; and that what may have been deemed a fair compromise between Turkey and Greece may now be found to involve similar troubles with regard to the forcible transfer of an unwilling population. Captain Swaine, the Military Attaché to the Embassy, has sent a memorandum, of which I inclose a copy. I have not had the opportunity of discussing it with him, but I am bound to state that I do not concur with its contents. It appears to me that the difficulties of the transfer of territory in Epirus would be greater than in any other quarter. I fear, from all I learn, that, whatever is done, there is little hope of the Turks accepting the decision of Europe with resignation. In my conversation with the Ministers nothing seemed to interest them so much as the views of England on the Greek frontier, and I hear the same feeling prevails at the Palace.

With regard to the cession to Montenegro, few of my colleagues have thus far been aware of any negotiation with regard to a third exchange of territory. According to your Lordship's instructions, I shall take care that the identic note shall hold the Porte to the April Memorandum in the meantime. The military cordon promised to Austria will, I presume, be maintained as a temporary guarantee, and in order to strengthen this guarantee for a more faithful execution of the last promise than on the occasion of the evacuation of the territory now occupied by the Albanians, I have proposed to your Lordship by telegraph that each of the Powers should have the right to attach a military officer to the staff of the Turkish General in command on the spot. It appears to me that our demand would gain force by such an arrangement, and that it would insure further advantages in the future.

The Russian Ambassador informed me that Sawas Pasha had told him that if the drawing of the cordon rendered the Albanians desperate, and induced them to attack the Montenegrins, the responsibility would lie with the Powers, and not with the Porte. The Russian Ambassador repudiated such responsibility; but the remark of the Minister foreshadows the reply likely to be made to the demand of the Powers.

The Russian Ambassador is most anxious that the Montenegrin question should be considered as the most important part of the note.

With regard to the provinces inhabited by Armenians, which, looking at the disastrous state of the country, is the gravest subject of all, the other Powers will follow very readily the phraseology of the note; but they appear to take comparatively little interest, and, I fear, do not believe in any effectual results. As stated in another despatch of this date, it appears that our demand will be met by an offer to introduce a "Statute" analogous to those now preparing for European Turkey. I am myself not prepared to offer an opinion at present. I have made arrangements to examine the question with representatives of the Armenians belonging to various clans, and I shall have the opportunity of hearing every possible detail from the military Consul-General, and the several officers who have reported so ably from time to time to your Lordship on the state of the Asiatic provinces. In the meantime the Turkish authorities plead poverty in bar to any action; but I have lost no opportunity to say in reply that we want reformers even before reforms, that what they can do, independently of money, is to strengthen the hands of the Governors, to encourage those who have administered well, and to punish those who have misconducted themselves, while the reverse policy has been almost invariably pursued. It is the deplorable refusal of the Porte to make any real effort in this direction, a practical refusal which your Lordship will have noticed in innumerable despatches from almost all the Asiatic provinces of the Porte, which will make it impossible to be really content with any promises of Statutes on paper. I reserve further observations on this all-important subject to a future despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Memorandum by Captain Swaine respecting the Greek Frontier Question.

AS a Conference is shortly to assemble to settle the Turco-Greek Frontier question, I wish, although much has already been written about it, to place before your Excellency one or two points in connection therewith which have not been much touched upon.

It should not be forgotten that it is not so much a question of cession of territory as a rectification of frontier.

Either the Gulf of Arta or that of Volo, if not both, must be given up. As neither Turkey nor Greece will be represented at the Conference, and as *force majeure* will oblige the one to accept and be satisfied with what the other has to give up, the Powers are free to consider what will be the most advantageous line of frontier for both countries.

The entrance to the Gulf of Arta is so shallow that no ships, even of ordinary size, can pass into it. To place it in a state of efficiency would cost large sums of money, much greater than Turkey could at present afford, and it is at least forty-eight hours further from Constantinople by steam than Volo. It happens to be the only possible harbour on that coast, and were the Turks to give it up they feel they would lose all hold on the Adriatic. Yet to keep it is but a sentimental idea.

With the Gulf of Volo it is a different matter. It cannot be denied that it is of much greater importance to Turkey. Its entrance is wide and deep, and forms a secure base of operations considerably nearer the capital. Were it given up the Turks have no other point along the coast nearer than Salonica.

Should Turkey be obliged to give up both the Gulfs she might as well withdraw to the Vistritza.

Thessaly is probably the richest province of Turkey, but her wealth lies almost entirely south of the Salaumbria. The shepherds of Albania, when the snow begins to fall on their mountains, bring their flocks into Macedonia and Thessaly, even as far south as Volo and Armyro, to graze, and were these portions to become Greek, the Albanians would hardly view with pleasure such interference with their established customs, for having to cross into another country would probably result in their being doubly taxed.

From a military point of view there is but little doubt that, were Turkey to give up the greater part of Thessaly, she would end by losing Epirus also. In a war with Greece she would be compelled either to hold it with a very large force, or else withdraw from it altogether. A Greek army in Thessaly would be on her flank, and close to her line of communications, having the Pass of Metzovo as her only line of retreat. The high and almost impassable mountains between Thessaly and Epirus would prevent a Turkish army in the latter being of any danger to a Greek one in the neighbouring province.

Greece has not yet shown that she can prevent brigandage in her own country. Were she now to obtain so large an increase of territory in Thessaly as to take in Mount Olympus, neither life nor property in and near Salonica would be safe. The Greeks, either of the province, or of Greece proper, form the largest proportion of brigands; there are a few small Albanian bands, but no other nationalities join in that trade.

A better Government in Constantinople may achieve wonders, and an energetic constabulary produce a beneficial result. But it must be remembered that Italy, which is so much further advanced in civilization, has not yet been able to stamp out this evil entirely. It is not, therefore, not to be expected that either Turkey or Greece will succeed any quicker. As long as the Turkish authorities are able to follow the brigands all over the north of Thessaly a possible chance is still given them of reducing this evil to a minimum. But if the frontier was brought up so far north as to take in a portion of the Olympus Range, it would give these lawless bands an additional means of escape, while the two mountain passes of Selvia and Vlacholivado will give Greece an offensive frontier from which she could at all times issue forth with her irregular troops and harass and disturb the neighbouring villages.

At the same, time the Greeks are a pushing race, and it would be better not to ignore the fact that of all the nationalities south of the Danube they are the most likely some day to replace the Turks as the most important people in the south-east of Europe.

If it may be presumed that the number of square miles contained between a

straight line drawn from the mouth of the Kalamas to that of the Salambria and the present frontier was the maximum amount of territory which the Powers at the Berlin Congress considered Turkey should cede, then the considerations above enumerated point rather to giving up to Greece more in Epirus than in Thessaly.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Captain and Military Attaché.

Constantinople, June 8, 1880.

No. 304.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 15.*)

Therapia, June 8, 1880.

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Report I have received from Mr. Consul Brophy relative to the burning and plundering of Turkish villages in the Aïdos-Achialo district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, May 26, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 10th and 13th May, I have the honour to report to your Excellency the substance of such reliable information as I have been able to gather concerning the burning of Turkish villages in this department by armed Bulgarians of the Principality and Eastern Roumelian gymnasts.

Orders having been received from Sophia to occupy the frontier vilayets on the Boundary-line between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, several battalions were sent for the purpose, and to each company of regular troops was attached another of "auxiliaries," or armed peasants, under the nominal command of the Captain, but without uniform or distinctive badge.

On the 4th May some of these auxiliaries, acting as an advanced guard, surrounded the village of Belibeh, in which two gendarmes of this province were then quartered, whence almost all the male inhabitants were absent at Hediatlar praying for rain, and arrested the women and children. Some lads, however, managed to escape to Hediatlar, where they announced (they had seen no uniforms) that their village was attacked by Bulgarian brigands, upon which some 200 or 300 Turks, armed and unarmed, determined to rescue the prisoners, and proceeded to Belibeh with this intention. When they approached the village the auxiliaries fired wildly for a few minutes, and then fled in the utmost disorder to the village of Soudjoulou, throwing away their rifles, cartridge-belts, and even their kalpaks.

Hearing the report of musketry, the troops came up and fired upon the Turks, who retired as soon as they found they had to do with a regular force and not merely brigands as they had supposed. Belibeh was immediately fired by the troops, and forty-three families, chiefly women and children, sent under guard to Pravadi.

On arriving at Soudjoulou the auxiliaries, in their panic, declared that the troops had been all massacred, that the Turkish Balkan was in arms, &c. The Prefect of Bourgas, who happened to be in the village, on his way to Varna, sent to the neighbouring Bulgarian villages for volunteers, and despatches asking for aid were hurried off to Varna, Shumla, and Sophia.

Being speedily joined by recruits from the Christian villages of Tchengué (in Bulgaria), Erketch, Yenikeui, Altchakdéré, Chardak, Oraman, &c., the auxiliary forces crossed the Roumelian frontier to fire and plunder the Turkish villages.

The villages thus fired are thirteen in number, viz., Belibeh, Youssouf Chabanlar, Kedikler, Lopatch, Nadirlar, Karamandja, Hodjakeui, Guraziki, Velibasha, Cairak, Casallek, Chelibikeui, and Demirkeui, of which all but the first-named are supposed to be in Eastern Roumelia, and all, up to the 4th May, paid taxes, &c., to this province.

It is impossible at present to give a correct estimate of the number of houses

burnt, but Belibeh (fifty houses) is a heap of ruins, and the other villages have all suffered more or less, according to the direction and force of the wind at the time.

The villagers, plundered and beaten, fled from their ruined homes, some 2,000 of them encamping at Bouraundjouk, whilst 600 of them went to the small Greek town of Misseyria, on the sea-coast, 580 to Cape Eminch, and others dispersed themselves here and there.

The number of killed is, I am disposed to believe, relatively small, those of whom I know for certain are, at present—

Belibeh, Feizi.—Oglou Suleiman and Hadji Oglou Hassan, shot in cold blood in the village.

Carink and Casallek.—Three men shot in the cemetery just outside Misseyria, by Bulgars of Altchakdéré.

Hodjakeui.—Hadji Effendi, wounded by bayonet thrusts; fate unknown.

Karamandja.—Wife of Mehmet Aga beaten with stocks of rifles; died at Eminch. Another woman from this village lost her senses from ill-treatment.

The vast majority of these unoffending villagers have been stripped of literally everything, down to their jackets and tobacco-pouches, and hundreds of peasants who, a month ago, lived in comfort on their own land are now houseless, penniless, and starving.

I am afraid to report all that I hear as to the outrages upon women, although the peasantry, whether Christian or Mussulman, are less disposed to exaggerate the number of such crimes than, when possible, to conceal them, rather than compromise the honour of their family.

At the village of Hodjakeui a Bulgarian sergeant of gendarmes from Achialo, named Ligar, was staying, when, on the night of the 12th May, the village was surrounded by armed Bulgarians; he promised to escort the Turks in safety from their homes on being paid for his services, received 3,687 piastres, and abandoned the Turks a short distance from Hodjakeui, after which they were met and stripped of everything portable by isolated bands of Bulgarians.

On the morning of the 7th instant a letter in Turkish was received by me stating that the village of Kalgamatch and two others in the Canton of Achialo were surrounded by Bulgarians from Soudjoulou and Erketch, who were carrying off all the Turks' property in waggons, and had outraged many women and girls.

This paper the Austrian Vice-Consul and I showed to the Baillé, M. Dagaroff, who promised to write to Achialo and inquire, but said that he did not believe in the story, as the Prefect must have been at or near Soudjoulou. As Belibeh was fired on the 4th instant, and Hodjakeui on the morning of the 13th, for nine days the Balkan, within 25 or 30 miles of Bourgas, appears to have been in the undisputed possession of Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks, who were murdering, outraging, plundering, and burning, without any effectual steps being taken by the authorities to restore order.

With regard to the setting fire to the village of Belibeh, the Bulgarian officer in comand there has stated that his orders, given about ten days before their execution, were "to occupy the frontier villages, and if a shot were fired from them, to burn them." There is no doubt that shots were fired by the Turks, not from, but near, Belibeh; but the same officer admits that he had sent no previous notice to the village, that no understanding on the subject had been come to with the Roumelian authorities, that only auxiliaries were employed to surround the village, and that the Turks might easily have imagined an attack by brigands, as they at first saw no troops. He also states that he could not control his auxiliaries, and that he marched patrols into this province in order to maintain order as far as possible.

M. Baracy arrived here yesterday from Philippopoli, charged by the Governor-General with the mission of inquiring into these occurrences, and left to-day for Misseyria in company of the Prefect.

I have just seen three Turks from Kishladéré, 7 miles north of Misseyria, who state that their village was attacked last night by a dozen armed Bulgarians; my informants say that all the inhabitants have fled to the hills, but they only know for certain of two houses being plundered, and one man, the Hodja, severely wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. BROPHY.

No. 305.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 15.*)

(No. 25.) *Therapia, June 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two Reports by Mr. Dragoman Marinich on the publication in Constantinople of a newspaper intended for circulation among Her Majesty's Mussulman subjects in India.

That such a newspaper should be permitted to be printed in the official printing-office is strange, to say the least of it.

I inclose three numbers of different dates, as they may interest Her Majesty's Indian Office.

I will make further inquiries as to whether the Imperial Printing-office is really used.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 305.

Memorandum.

(Secret et Confidentiel.)

COMME j'ai eu déjà l'honneur d'informer l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté, l'Indien, Nousret Ali Khan, ancien Directeur du journal Indien, "Moukhbiri Sourour," qui a été supprimé, est arrivé il y a quelques mois à Constantinople dans le but de créer un journal destiné à servir les intérêts de l'union Islamique, et n'a cessé depuis son arrivée dans cette capitale de travailler les Musulmans contre les Anglais.

Cet individu s'efforce de convaincre les Turcs qu'ils doivent établir une entente cordiale avec les Indiens lesquels, dit-il, eu égard au Califhat, dirigent sans cesse leurs regards vers le Sultan, quils considèrent comme leur Chef suprême.

Nousret Ali Khan s'était présenté chez plusieurs Ministres du Sultan auxquels il avait fait part de ses projets; mais il n'avait pas rencontré aupres d'eux un accueil de nature à pouvoir l'encourager dans la fondation de son journal.

Le Scheikh Suleiman Effendi m'avait dit que Nousret Ali Khan lui avait fait part que les dispositions peu bienveillantes dont le Gouvernement Ottoman était animé à l'égard de son entreprise l'avait découragé entièrement et qu'il se disposait à abandonner Constantinople pour se rendre en Angleterre.

Le Scheikh Suleiman Effendi vient de m'informer que la situation a changé depuis lors et que Nousret Ali Khan a renoncé à son voyage pour mettre à exécution ses plans.

Voici, paraît-il, les circonstances auxquelles doit être attribué ce fait:

Dernièrement le Premier Ministre, Saïd Pacha, aurait tâché de persuader le Sultan que les Anglais suscitaient toutes sortes de difficultés aux Indiens qui professaient leur sympathie pour la Turquie; qu'ils avaient empêché les Indiens de venir se battre pour la défense du pavillon Ottoman durant la dernière guerre contre les Russes; qu'ils s'étaient opposés à l'envoi de sommes considérables que les Indiens étaient disposés d'offrir pour aider la Turquie dans les dépenses de la guerre, et qu'enfin les Anglais faisaient tous leurs efforts pour empêcher l'union que les Indiens étaient anxieux de cimenter avec les Musulmans de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'en agissant ainsi l'intention de l'Angleterre n'étaient autre que celle de parvenir à détruire le prestige du Sultan et d'anéantir les biens du Califhat qui unissaient les Indiens aux Turcs.

En tenant ce langage au Sultan, Saïd Pacha aurait dit au Souverain qu'il le priait de prêter foi aux paroles que son profond attachement au trône, et le désir de servir sa patrie lui avait fait prononcer et que les événements n'auraient pas tardé à justifier.

Le langage du Premier Ministre semble avoir causé une pénible impression sur l'esprit du Souverain.

Pour pouvoir prouver la véracité de ses assertions, Saïd Pacha a fait mander immédiatement après cette entrevue Nousret Ali Khan, l'a engagé à rester à Constantinople et lui a donné ses instructions.

Quelques jours après Nousret Ali Khan a été autorisé à publier son journal, qui s'intitule "Peiky-Islam" et qui est écrit en langues Ordou et Turque.

Ce journal, qui s'imprime dans les bureaux du "Moniteur Officiel," "Takvimi Vekaï," se public, dit on, aux frais du Gouvernement Ottoman.

En attendant, Nousret Ali Khan, qui a reçu déjà un secours d'argent de £ T. 100, déploie tous ses efforts pour assurer la réussite de son programme politique.

Saïd Pacha a engagé fortement le journaliste Indien à lui procurer un mémoire portant la signature de quelques personnages Indiens qui voudraient voir s'établir l'union Islamique. Nousret Ali Khan a promis de fournir ce document au moyen duquel son Altesse doit justifier aux yeux de son Souverain le langage qu'il a tenu.

Le Scheikh Suleiman Effendi pense que dans l'intérêt de l'Angleterre l'Ambassade devrait saisir la première occasion favorable pour faire supprimer le dit journal et expulser Nousret Ali Khan de Constantinople, avant qu'il ne parvienne à inculquer parmi les Musulmans de la Turquie le germe des idées subversives qu'il colporte. En attendant, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté devrait *ipso facto* défendre l'entrée aux Indes du dit journal.

Saïd Pacha ne se serait pas contenté d'entreprendre cette seule campagne contre l'Angleterre, il aurait même porté ses regards sur l'Afghanistan pour trouver le moyen de contrecarrer les desseins du Gouvernement Britannique.

Son Altesse aurait envoyé il y a quelque temps un émissaire à Caboul chargé de travailler les esprits contre les Anglais et se proposerait d'en expédier un second. Ce second émissaire, qui ne tardera pas à quitter la capitale, s'appelle Lengher Khan; il est habillé en mendiant et a de fréquentes entrevues avec Saïd Pacha. Cet émissaire, qui est originaire de Candahar, a, paraît-il, déjà visité le Thibet, Cashmere, Lahore, Pechavour, et Caboul et aurait une connaissance parfaite des hommes et des choses de tous ces pays. Il y a des raisons pour croire que Lengher Khan a été choisi et envoyé à Constantinople par les soins du premier émissaire de Saïd Pacha.

(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

Péra, le 3 Juin, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 305.

Memorandum.

(Secret et Confidentiel.)

ME conformant aux ordres de votre Excellence, et pour faire suite à mon mémorandum du 3 courant, je viens transmettre sous ce pli les trois numéros qui ont paru jusqu'à présent du journal Indo-Turc, "Peiky-Islam," publié par les soins de l'Indien, Nousret Ali Khan.

Comme j'ai eu l'honneur d'en informer votre Excellence, ce journal se publie dans les bureaux de l'Imprimerie Impériale, et il est plus que probable que cette publication se fait aux frais du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Certainement il est très-difficile d'en avoir la preuve. Toutefois, comme Nousret Ali Khan est tout-à-fait étranger et inconnu à Constantinople, et étant, selon ses propres déclarations, dépourvu entièrement des moyens nécessaires pour faire face aux frais d'impression, maintien du personnel, et autres dépenses qu'entraîne la publication d'un pareil journal, le Scheikh Suleiman Effendi pense que l'Ambassade n'a pas besoin d'autres preuves pour se convaincre que le "Peiky-Islam" se public aux frais de l'Etat, à moins, dit-il, que Nousret Ali Khan ne reçoive des secours pécuniers des Indes. Une autre preuve, ajoute le Scheikh Suleïman Effendi, que le dit journal Indo-Turc se public gratis, c'est que les frais d'impression dans les bureaux du "Moniteur Officiel" étant plus élevés que ceux des imprimeries des autres journaux Turcs de la capitale, Nousret Ali Khan, qui ne dispose pas de moyens, n'aurait pas hésité, s'il fallait payer, de choisir une toute autre imprimerie que celle du "Takvimi Vekaï" ("Moniteur Officiel de l'Empire Ottoman").

Tout en confirmant donc à votre Excellence le contenu de mon mémorandum du 3 courant, je m'empresse d'ajouter que le second émissaire, Lenglier Khan, envoyé par le Premier Ministre dans l'Afghanistan, a quitté Constantinople le Vendredi dernier, pour s'acquitter de sa mission. Bien que le Sultan ait été impressionné par le langage que lui a tenu Saïd Pacha contre l'Angleterre, Sa Majesté hésite encore à y prêter foi, et c'est cette attitude hésitante du Souverain qui a engagé le Premier Ministre à hâter la publication du "Peiky-Islam."

Le dit journal ne contient pour le moment rien de sérieux pour l'Angleterre. Cela viendra progressivement; plus de 200 exemplaires sont expédiés chaque semaine aux Indes par la poste, et on prétend même que des exemplaires cachent des lettres

envoyées à l'adresse de personnages influents aux Indes pour les engager à soutenir la campagne entreprise contre l'Angleterre.

Il paraît que Nousret Ali Khan, qui connaît aussi l'Anglais, entretient une correspondance assez suivie avec le Comité ou les Comités qui se seraient formés aux Indes pour poursuivre le but proposé.

Nousret Ali Khan, qui est originaire de Delhi, a séjourné douze ans à Bombay, où il avait publié le journal "Moukhbiri Sourour," qui fut supprimé plus tard par ordre du Gouvernement Britannique.

Comme la publication du journal "Peiky-Islam" devra amener tôt ou tard une froideur entre les populations Musulmanes et l'Angleterre, je prends la liberté d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur la nécessité d'adopter les conclusions de mon mémorandum du 3 courant.

J'ai l'honneur de remettre ci-joint un manuscrit de Nousret Ali Khan, que le Scheikh Sulciman Effendi a eu la bonté de me procurer.

(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

Péra, le 7 Juin, 1880.

No. 306.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 26.) *Therapia, June* 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 5, giving me instructions with reference to inquiring into the outrages on Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia, I have informed your Lordship by telegraph that I found the most cordial desire to act with me on the part of my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues. They seemed gratified at the subject being taken up by Her Majesty's Government, and expressed their strong approval of the "sense of justice" which was inspiring our action in the matter. They further concurred in the expediency of satisfying the Turks that the Great Powers were not exclusively actuated by the desire to protect Christian minorities, but would equally discountenance the oppression of any other creed or race. At the present moment, quite apart from the question of humanity and justice, the hands of Europe would undoubtedly be strengthened in their dealings with Turkey the less the pressure exercised should appear to be simply the pressure of Christian Powers brought to bear on a Mussulman Government.

I have already fully reported to your Lordship that the Russian Ambassador does not share these views, but is nervously anxious as to the slightest remonstrance addressed to the Bulgarian authorities. What I learnt from my colleagues as to the probable line which M. Novikoff would adopt led me to ask your Lordship whether you could act in St. Petersburgh.

I gather from your Lordship's telegram received last night that there is some hope of the Russian Government, though opposed to a formal inquiry, nevertheless joining in some action. Your Lordship has telegraphed to me that, if I find that there is difficulty in obtaining the agreement of all the Representatives of the Powers to pursuing inquiries in Eastern Roumelia, but only in that case, it would be better not to press for joint action, but for each Power to take such steps separately as it may consider best, and for the Representatives to communicate to each other the steps they take, and the result.

I am thoroughly penetrated with the extreme expediency of maintaining common action in every step to be taken at the present moment; and notwithstanding the delay which has occurred owing to the difficulty of persuading Russia to share our views, and notwithstanding that the proposal to which, according to Lord Dufferin's telegram of the 1st instant, His Majesty the Emperor would consent, may be less thorough and satisfactory than the course which would otherwise be followed, the advantages of the general accord, in showing the authorities of Eastern Roumelia that all the Powers are interested in securing fair treatment to the populations in a minority in that district, as well as to other minorities, seem to me to outweigh all other considerations.

I have informed your Lordship that I propose to employ Colonel Wilson for the task of inquiry. Colonel Wilson has shown great impartiality and ability in Asia Minor, and his report would command great respect. Mr. Stephen, notwithstanding his ability, would, owing to his youth and comparative want of experience, not be able to carry as much weight as an officer of Colonel Wilson's standing and reputation.

If the suggestion should be made that the inquiry should be conducted by the resident Consuls, I think Her Majesty's Government may nevertheless claim to be represented by Colonel Wilson, who is himself a Consul-General, and may *ad hoc* take the place of Mr. Michell on leave, while Mr. Stephen will discharge the ordinary duties of the Consulate-General.

I presume an official communication should be addressed to the Porte with reference to the inquiry.

I have instructed Mr. Stephen to observe the utmost impartiality in his dealings with the authorities of Philippopoli, and to lose no opportunity of stating that it is the interest of the Bulgarian population to command the sympathy and approval of Europe; that, as a newly-constituted province, it is all-important to them to show that they are capable of maintaining order, observing self-restraint, enforcing discipline, and respecting minorities; that they must be aware of the sympathy displayed by England for them, but that that sympathy must be shown to be merited by their conduct and moderation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 307.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 82.) *Bucharest, June* 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed that the Roumanian Government have learnt with considerable satisfaction from M. Demeter Bratiano, from London, and from their Acting-Consul at Sophia, that Mr. Lascelles had, under instructions from your Lordship, joined his colleagues in giving friendly advice to the Bulgarian Government by means of which the differences on the subject of naturalization between the two neighbouring States have been amicably adjusted.

The objections of Roumania and Servia to the projected Bulgarian law consisted not so much in the great facilities given for naturalizing those of their subjects who are of Bulgarian origin, as in the terms employed in that Government Bill in describing the Dobroudja and certain places annexed to Servia as parts of Bulgaria.

This appears from a confidential despatch addressed by M. Boerescо to the Roumanian Representatives abroad, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy, begging however that it may be kept secret, and in which I have italicized the passages of the projected law to which allusion is made as objectionable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Circular of Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Representatives Abroad.

(Confidentielle.) *Bucarest, le Mai*, 1880.

M.

PAR télégramme chiffré du $\frac{3}{15}$ courant, je vous ai signalé que le Cabinet de Sophia avait élaboré et publié, et se proposait de faire voter d'urgence par l'Assemblée Nationale, un Projet de Loi sur la naturalisation des étrangers en Bulgarie, et que certaines parties de ce projet visaient plus particulièrement les habitants de la Dobrudja—de la Serbie, de la Roumélie Orientale, et de l'Empire Ottoman proprement dit—qui sont d'origine Bulgare.

La question ne laissant pas de présenter une haute gravité, il est nécessaire que je complète dès aujourd'hui les indications contenues dans mon télégramme.

Selon les données qui me sont parvenues de Sophia jusqu'à ce moment, voici le résumé des dispositions sur l'admission des étrangers aux droits de citoyen en Bulgarie:—

1. Un stage de cinq années, qui leur conférerait seulement le caractère de sujets;

2. Un second stage de cinq années, au bout desquelles ils serait admis à l'exercice des droits politiques.

Mais l'Article 3 constitue une exception à ces règles générales, et porte :—

"Seront considérés comme citoyens Bulgares, sans autres conditions que les certificats d'une commune Bulgare constatant qu'ils sont admis dans cette commune, et présenté dans le délai de trois mois à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi, *tous les anciens sujets Ottomans de nationalité Bulgare, nés en Roumélie, ou dans les provinces Turques, ou dans les parties de la Bulgarie annexées à la Roumanie et à la Serbie*, qui sont domiciliés sur le territoire Bulgare avant la promulgation de la présente loi.

"De même seront citoyens Bulgares, sans autres conditions que les précédentes, *les habitants de nationalité Bulgare qui, se trouvant dans les provinces annexées à la Roumanie et à la Serbie*, et n'étant pas résolus à y rester, émigreront en Bulgarie dans le délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi."

Cet Article, dans son ensemble, ne contient pas moins de trois vices capitaux :— il blesse la vérité historique ; il viole les prescriptions les plus usuelles du droit international ; il est contraire au Traité de Berlin, car il tend, par un subterfuge d'ailleurs facile à pénétrer, à rétablir et à prolonger parmi les divers éléments de la Péninsule Balkanique la confusion que ce Traité s'est attaché à dissiper.

Qualifier la Dobrugia de province Bulgare annexée à la Roumanie, c'est méconnaître la vérité historique. La Dobrugia a été tour à tour Tartare, Roumaine, Ottomane, jamais Bulgare. C'est sur des tribus Tartares, et dans des limites plus vastes que les limites actuelles, qu'elle fut conquise au treizième siècle par des Princes Roumains. C'est à des Princes Roumains que les Sultans l'enlevèrent au commencement du quinzième siècle. C'est enfin de l'Empire Ottoman que l'Europe, après la guerre de 1877-78, en a statué le désistement en faveur de la Roumanie. Le Gouvernement Princier a déjà dû, par Circulaire du 19 Février / 3 Mars 1879, à ses Représentants, s'élever contre des allégations erronées, et rappeler l'enchaînement de circonstances, les titres historiques, et les succès militaires qui lui ont rendu la Dobrugia. Il renouvelle aujourd'hui ses protestations, afin de couper court à la thèse qui se plaît à présenter la Dobrugia comme un morceau arraché à la Bulgarie. La seule analogie qui existât naguère, et qui ait jamais existé entre la Bulgarie et la Dobrugia, était leur condition commune de provinces Ottomanes. Elles sont sorties ensemble, mais vers des destinées divergentes, de cette condition. L'une est retournée à un état auquel elle avait jadis appartenu, et dont elle est heureuse de partager de nouveau l'existence indépendante et prospère ; l'autre, par le concours de sacrifices auxquels la Roumanie a largement contribuée, a été érigée en Principauté autonome, parce qu'elle a été jugée capable d'acquérir les droits, mais aussi de remplir les obligations et de peser les responsabilités de l'autonomie.

Parmi ces obligations d'une Principauté qui est essentiellement une création du droit international, figure en première ligne de respect des règles que le droit international prescrit. Or, l'Article 3 précité constitue une violation flagrante à ces prescriptions.

Que contient en effet ce texte, dû non pas à l'initiative particulière de quelque Député exalté, mais à l'initiative même du Cabinet de Sophia ? Il proclame qu'il suffit d'un simple transfert de résidence et d'un certificat émané d'une autorité de village de la Bulgarie, pour transformer un sujet Roumain de la Dobrugia en un citoyen Bulgare. Ce n'est pas tout. Le projet ne se borne pas à créer un régime d'exception pour les individus qui se sont déjà fixés en Bulgarie. Il anticipe sur l'avenir ; il prévoit, il sollicite l'émigration. Il dispose que tout sujet Roumain de la Dobrugia, d'origine Bulgare, qui, dans le délai de deux années à dater de la promulgation de la loi, aura émigré en Bulgarie et obtenu un certificat communal Bulgare, deviendra, *ipso facto*, sans plus ample formalité, citoyen Bulgare. A quelle époque, en quel pays la naturalisation de sujets étrangers a-t-elle pu résulter du seul fait d'une provocation écontée à un changement de résidence ? Du passé de l'émigré, de sa situation vis-à-vis de l'Etat, qu'il vient de quitter, il n'est pas question. A-t-il payé l'impôt, satisfait à la loi militaire ? N'a-t-il commis aucun crime ? Est-il en règle vis-à-vis du passé ? N'aura-t-il eu besoin, pour s'en libérer complètement, que d'avoir mis quelques lieues de distance entre son ancienne et sa nouvelle résidence ? Car l'émigré, devenu citoyen Bulgare, presqu'aussitôt qu'il a franchi la frontière, échappe dès lors à toute poursuite.

Le Cabinet de Sophia a exprimé au Gouvernement Princier de Roumanie le désir de négocier un arrangement pour l'extradition des déserteurs. L'accueil rencontré par cette proposition présageait une entente, et constituait en quelque sorte la base d'un accord préliminaire.

En supposant l'Acte relatif aux déserteurs conclu, et la loi sur la naturalisation votée, comment les concilier ? Le Gouvernement Bulgare, fidèle à ses engagements, livrerait-il comme déserteurs des individus à qui leur désertion même aurait conféré la cité Bulgare ?

Que dire aussi de la différence établie par le Projet de Loi entre les sujets étrangers quelconques, et les sujets étrangers de territoires spécifiés ? Le simple voisinage deviendrait-il en droit international une capacité de naturalisation ?

Comment expliquer surtout la distinction que le Projet de Loi prétend marquer entre les sujets Roumains de la rive gauche du Danube et ceux de la rive droite ? Existera-t-il deux catégories de sujets Roumains, seulement au point de vue et dans l'intérêt de la naturalisation Bulgare ?

C'est ici que la situation redouble de gravité, et c'est principalement sous ce rapport que le Projet de Loi peut à juste titre être accusé de contrevenir au Traité de Berlin. Car les observations qui concernent les sujets Roumains s'appliquent également aux sujets Ottomans et Serbes, et aux Rouméliotes, c'est-à-dire à la Péninsule des Balkans presque tout entière.

Pour ne parler que des sujets Roumains, l'Article 3 divise en deux classes ceux qui sont d'origine Bulgare :—S'ils habitent la rive gauche du Danube, ce sont des étrangers quelconques, au même titre, par exemple, que des Espagnols ou des Anglais. Ils ne seront admis à la cité Bulgare qu'après un double stage progressif, dont chaque période sera de cinq ans. S'ils habitent la rive droite, s'ils sont de la Dobrugia, leur situation est tout autre. Ils sont presque déjà des citoyens Bulgares, sauf de légères conditions, faciles et rapides à réunir. Ceux-là seuls perdraient leur capacité à devenir citoyens qui, dans un délai de deux ans à dater de la promulgation de la loi, n'auraient pas quitté la Dobrugia, partie de la Bulgarie annexée à la Roumanie, et ne se seraient pas fixés dans la Principauté Bulgare proprement dite.

Ainsi la Bulgarie, moins de deux ans après la signature du Traité de Berlin, qui est comme son acte de naissance, élève déjà des prétentions sur la Dobrugia, sur la Roumélie, sur des portions de l'Empire Ottoman et de la Serbie, et les revendique presque ouvertement. Elle élabore une loi de naturalisation, dont le seul énoncé donne aussitôt l'éveil aux Etats avoisinants, et dont la pratique entraînerait un trouble profond et une confusion inextricable dans ses relations de toute sorte.

Il n'est pas besoin d'insister plus longuement, car il est facile de mesurer du premier coup la portée alarmante du symptôme qui vient de se révéler.

Dès l'apparition de ce Projet de Loi, l'Agent Diplomatique de Serbie à Sophia a protesté. Le Gérant de l'Agence Princière de Roumanie a formulé des réserves catégoriques au nom de son Gouvernement, et m'a avisé, en me signalant que le Projet de Loi, publié seulement le 7/19 Mai, devait d'abord être discuté par l'Assemblée en toute hâte, le surlendemain, et qu'on avait à peine obtenu un sursis de trois jours.

Je l'ai immédiatement autorisé à renouveler par écrit ses réserves les plus formelles, à demander la remise de la discussion, et à faire connaître l'incident aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Sophia. Je vous ai en même temps expédié mon télégramme. On m'a informé ensuite que la discussion avait été fixée au 10/22 Mai. Enfin le dernier télégramme que j'ai reçu de l'Agence Princière à Sophia m'annonce que Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie a promis lui-même un ajournement de huit jours.

Vous connaissez maintenant, M. , la marche de la question jusqu'au point où elle est actuellement arrivée, et vous êtes dès lors en mesure d'en attester l'importance auprès du Cabinet .

L'intérêt traditionnel de la Roumanie pour les Bulgares, alors qu'ils venaient chercher et trouvaient, avec l'hospitalité la plus large, fortune et lumières sur le sol Roumain, la coopération si généreuse de l'armée Roumaine avec l'armée Impériale Russe à l'œuvre de leur émancipation, enfin la cordialité des sentiments que le Cabinet Roumain, depuis le Congrès de Berlin, n'a cessé de témoigner à la jeune Principauté née par l'autonomie à la vie politique, permettent d'apprécier l'étendue et la sincérité du désir où est la Roumanie d'entretenir avec la Bulgarie les rapports de la meilleure harmonie.

Toutefois, pour porter ses fruits, ce désir doit être payé de retour.

Or, une succession rapprochée d'indices significatifs légitime des doutes sur la réciprocité dont le Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie est disposé à user dans ses sentiments envers la Roumanie.

Je vous ai entretenu récemment, M. , des accusations portées par le Cabinet Bulgare contre la Dobrugia, désignée comme le foyer où naîtrait et s'alimenterait, sous le couvert de l'incurie ou de la complicité des autorités Roumaines, le brigandage qui sévit en Bulgarie. Par mon office du 21 Août / 2 Sept. je vous ai communiqué

copie d'un Rapport très-circonstancié adressé par le Préfet de Constanza au Département de l'Intérieur sur cette prétendue formation de bandes de brigands dans la Dobrugia. Ce document vous a convaincu l'attribution des torts. Depuis, des incursions de cendies dans les forêts sur la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine et des incursions de troupes et milices Bulgares sur le sol de la Dobrugia ont fourni de tristes lumières sur la réalité. Ajouterai-je, pour mémoire, et sur la base d'informations puisées aux sources les plus sûres, M. le Ministre de la Guerre de Bulgarie, au moment d'entreprendre une inspection de la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine, a consciencieusement avoué, devant témoins, qu'il n'existait aucune preuve de la formation de bandes de brigands dans la Dobrugia?

Aujourd'hui surgit la question du Projet de Loi sur la naturalisation des sujets Roumains d'origine Bulgare habitant la Dobrugia. Le texte de ce projet articule que la Dobrugia est une dépouille Bulgare annexée à la Roumanie, et organise, par un appel insolite à l'émigration, et par une distinction entre les sujets d'un même pays, un système de naturalisation qui est inadmissible, parce qu'il est attentatoire aux principes du droit public et du droit international. La Dobrugia serait une province que la Bulgarie viendrait de conquérir au prix de son sang que le projet ne disposerait pas avec plus d'aisance d'une fraction de ses habitants.

Ne semble-t-il pas qu'il y ait là une provocation presque directe?

Si la loi relative à la naturalisation en Bulgarie venait à être votée dans la teneur actuelle du projet, la Roumanie, après avoir dûment protesté à Sophia même et auprès de toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ne serait-elle pas en droit d'user de représailles et d'édicter des mesures analogues envers les habitants de la Bulgarie dont un grand nombre sont d'origine Roumaine? Ces mesures et ces représailles ne lui seraient-elles pas impérieusement imposées par l'instinct de conservation et de légitime défense, et par la nécessité de rétablir l'équilibre rompu? Dès lors, cette lutte d'attraction réciproque et mutuellement hostile des sujets de l'une des deux Principautés dans l'autre n'amènerait-elle pas fatalement un désarroi irrémédiable, et le plus fâcheux préjudice aux intérêts publics des deux parties, et surtout aux intérêts commerciaux des Bulgares? La tranquillité, la stabilité que le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission d'organiser dans l'Europe Orientale ne seraient-elles pas dangereusement compromises? N'y aurait-il pas là le germe de complications éventuelles?

Il est de l'intérêt des deux Principautés, appelées par leur voisinage à vivre dans les meilleures relations, il est de l'intérêt de l'Europe, désireuse de sauvegarder, avec la paix, son œuvre en Orient, qu'aucune cause de tension ne se produise ou ne subsiste dans les rapports de la Roumanie et de la Bulgarie.

C'est au nom de ces intérêts multiples, c'est en vertu de ces considérations de tout ordre que le Cabinet Roumain demande au Gouvernement de Sophia de renoncer, dans son Projet de Loi sur la naturalisation, aux clauses qui lèsent la Roumanie, et qu'il croit de son devoir de porter confidentiellement cet incident à la connaissance du Gouvernement de , afin qu'il soit possible, pendant qu'il en est temps encore, de prévenir des difficultés dont on ne saurait prévoir ni l'étendue ni l'importance.

Vous êtes autorisé à parler en ce sens à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de , et même à lui donner lecture de la présente dépêche, si Son Excellence en exprime le désir.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 308.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 83.) *Bucharest, June* 8, 1880.

My Lord,

THE fact that the Russian Government joined the other Powers in disapproving the hasty proceedings of the Bulgarians, to which reference is made in my previous despatch of yesterday's date, produced an agreeable impression at Bucharest.

As M. de Giers alluded in his conversation with Lord Dufferin, as reported in his Excellency's telegram No. 77, to the facilities which the Roumanian Constitution gives to persons of that race for acquiring Roumanian citizenship, I beg leave to inclose a copy of Article IX of that Constitution, to which his Excellency referred, and from which your Lordship will perceive that this provision is a general one, irrespective of any particular country or province, and applies only to persons who can prove having

ceased to be foreign subjects, and in these two important points the Bulgarian projected law differed to the one in force in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Article 9 of Roumanian Constitution.

ARTICLE 9. Tout Roumain d'un Etat quelconque, sans distinction du lieu de naissance, dès qu'il a prouvé sa renonciation à la protection étrangère, peut immédiatement obtenir l'exercice des droits politiques par un vote des Corps Législatifs.

No. 309.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 477.) *Paris, June* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Goschen No. 29 of yesterday, which your Lordship has done me the honour to repeat to me, I have to report that M. de Freycinet told me that, having received yesterday by telegraph the text *in extenso*, as settled by the Representatives at Constantinople, of the identic note to be presented by them to the Porte, he had on that day informed M. Tissot, also by telegraph, that there was no objection to his signing it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 310.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 479.) *Paris, June* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 470 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Freycinet has told me to-day that he will send this evening, by telegraph, instructions to M. Tissot to enter into communication with the other Representatives of Great Powers at Constantinople on the subject of communicating to the Porte the new arrangements respecting the frontier of Montenegro which are proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 311.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 15, 5·40 A.M.)

(No. 9.) *Cettinjé, June* 14, 1880, 11·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE this evening received from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs a written answer to my proposals.

Prince Nicholas accepts in principle arrangement, but trusts Her Majesty's Government will not refuse to take into consideration territorial modifications alluded to in his conversations with me.

His Highness takes note that there must be no fortifications on the Turkish frontier to the east of the lake in the zone of [*sic*] which had been ceded by the memorandum of the 12th April, and that existing ones must be destroyed. Clause of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin about fortifications between sea and lake to remain in force. Conditions in the same Article about the Antivari coast to be also applied to that of Dulcigno.

As a natural outcome of the spirit which has given rise to this fresh transaction, Prince desires that it should be dependent on a previous declaration of Her Majesty's

Government that it will formally engage that the delivery to Montenegro of the ceded territories will be carried out in a regular and pacific manner, so that Principality may not for the third time be the victim of the non-execution of the Porte's engagement.

His Highness hopes Her Majesty's Government will hasten its action to put speedy end to intolerable state of things, and for which His Highness reserves his rights to pecuniary compensation hereafter.

My Austrian colleague and I have fully explained to the Prince that the proposed line is the maximum that would be required, therefore proposed modifications need not stop progress.

If I receive your Lordship's authority to give assurances asked for by the Prince, I propose returning at once to Scutari to watch Albanians and conduct of Turkish authorities.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 312.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 10.) *Cettinjé, June 15, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 9, I would suggest that as soon as proposal has been accepted by the Porte, which ought to be made aware that Montenegro will not listen to any further changes, the delivery of the territory to the west of the lake can be immediately effected, and that any excuses of the Turks for delay will be proof of their intention to renew difficulties. Even with only the troops now at Scutari, by occupying the necessary points on Boyana, and watching the lake with the steamboats, all Albanian interference can be prevented, especially as the Montenegrins will still pretend to threaten Touzi, and thus occupy attention of the Roman Catholic mountaineers.

Osman Pasha, who recently arrived from Constantinople, ought to be the officer charged with the execution of the operations, and the delivery of Dulcigno to Montenegro.

I agree with my Austrian colleague that the presence of Austrian and English ships of war in Albanian waters at time of surrender being executed will have a good effect.

The success of whole affair depends on celerity of action.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 313.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 42.) *Pera, June 15, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 70.

Identic note was presented on Saturday, as indicated in my telegram No. 29.

No. 314.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 80.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 38 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government approve your language to Kadri Pasha.

No. 315.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 81.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1880, 6 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 34, and mine No. 58.

Following are joint proposals of Mr. Green and Austrian Consul-General for Montenegrin frontier (as described in despatch dated the 29th May from Mr. Green) :—

Line to follow thalweg of Boyana from its mouth to point where stream from Lake Sas falls into it, thence a direct line to furthest Eastern projection of frontier proposed by the Russian Commissioners last year, and marked in Captain Sale's map of "the frontier between the lake and the sea," follow that Russian line up to 11th point voted by the Commission, thereabouts join Commission's line and descend it to point 18 on the lake, waters of which to be divided by direct line from points 18 to 19 in Captain Sale's maps of 1879.

Frontier voted by Boundary Commission from points 19 to 23 to be maintained, and thence follow red line to points 24 and 24[1], and be continued by Russian blue line as far as Suka-Gruda, and thence along southern frontier of the Kuči Kraïna, as verified by Boundary Commission, up to its termination at Planinica; from that locality Count Corti's line to stand good.

All military posts recently erected by the Turks in an offensive sense against Podgoritza to be destroyed.

Consuls to be enabled to assure North Albanians that their legitimate aspirations will not be disregarded, and an Imperial Proclamation in this sense to be issued by Turkish authorities.

Mr. Green and Austrian Consul consider that administrative reforms should, for the present, be limited to Vilayet of Scutari.

Mahommedans in North-eastern Albania would probably be temporarily content with improved form of existing Turkish organization, the working of which could be watched by Consular officers in the interests of the Christians.

The same would apply to Middle Albania.

The Governor-General of Scutari Vilayet to be an Albanian Mahommedan, to be chosen, if possible, in the vilayet; the Vice-Governor to be a Roman Catholic. Hodo Bey suggested for Governor-General; Vassa Effendi for Vice-Governor. A Christian Kaïmakam of the Roman Catholic tribes of the Great Mountain to be appointed to reside at Touzi; Prenk Bib Doda to be appointed Kaïmakam of the Miridites, and a Scutarine gentleman to be associated with him.

The proposed form of administration to be submitted for consideration to the North Albanian Committee, and to delegates from the southern towns and districts of the province.

No. 316.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 82.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 42.

Parliamentary papers will be presented to-day and distributed to-morrow.

No. 317.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15, 10 P.M.)

(No. 62.) *Rome, June 15, 1880, 7·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Italian Ambassador at Berlin to support the line of frontier which includes the cession of Janina and Metzovo to Greece, agreed upon between England and France.

No. 318.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15, 8·50 P.M.)

(No. 77.) *Vienna, June 15, 1880, 5 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

BARON HAYMERLE is informed from Paris that he is supposed to prefer the April arrangement of the Montenegrin frontier to the decision just proposed, and he is anxious that it should be known that this is far from being the case.

He considered that the Porte ought to be held bound by its former engagement till the new arrangement was agreed to, but he gives the latter his warmest support.

No. 319.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 15, 9·41 P.M.*)

(No. 78.) (Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 15, 1880, 9·5 P.M.*

THE Austrian Minister at Cettinjé reports the Prince's acceptance of the new proposal to be accompanied by several conditions not mentioned in Mr. Green's telegram reported to me in your Lordship's No. 154.

These conditions include a pecuniary indemnity from the Porte, the razing of a Turkish fortress between Zem and the lake, the prohibition of the erection by the Turks of any forts on the territory left to them between the lake and the sea, and various formalities about the cession of Dulcigno, including the presence of Austrian and English ships of war to cruize off that port.

According to this report the engagement to obtain the loyal surrender of the frontier by the Turks demanded by the Prince was to be taken not by the Powers but by England and Austria.

Baron Haymerle thinks that it will be best not to attach too great importance to these conditions, and only to tell the Prince generally that in determining the details of the arrangement there will be every disposition to attend to his interests.

No. 320.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 77.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1880.*

Sir,

YOUR telegram No. 38 of yesterday has been received, and Her Majesty's approve your having stated to Kadri Pasha, in reply to questions from him, that it is now too late for Turkey to make a reply to Lord Salisbury's proposal for an International Commission for the Greek frontier, and that England could not take separate action and mediate for Turkey in the matter, as the Treaty of Berlin stipulated for the collective mediation of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 321.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 670 A.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 175 of the 12th instant, reporting your interview with Sir Linton Simmons on his arrival in Paris, and the meeting which had subsequently taken place at the French Foreign Office on the subject of the proposed new frontier for Greece, at which your Excellency, M. de Freycinet, Sir L. Simmons, and others were present, and at which meeting your Excellency reports M. de Freycinet accepted the line of demarcation proposed by Sir L. Simmons on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, a description of which was then drawn up, whilst the Compte de St. Vallier was to receive instructions to support it.

I have to express to your Excellency the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the agreement which, with your Excellency's assistance, has thus been arrived at between the Governments of England and France on this subject, and to request that you will inform M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin has been instructed to act with his French colleague in supporting the proposed frontier line in the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 322.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 12th instant, informing me that your Government has accepted the proposal of the Emperor of Germany for a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin, charged with settling the question of the Greek Frontier, and giving the names of the Italian military officers who have been deputed to assist the Italian Ambassador, Count de Launay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 323.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 16.*)

(No. 15. Political.) *Trebizond, May 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

HAVING begged Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet to communicate to me any information that he might obtain on the impending emigration of Christians to Russia from the districts neighbouring Samsoon, I have the honour to inclose copy of his reply to me.

The Armenian Bishop of Trebizond, who confirms the information conveyed to me by Mr. Doulcet, intends to depart within the present week for Samsoon.

The causes of the intended emigration of Christians are the same everywhere, that is, vexations on the part of Laz immigrants and of Beys, powerlessness of the local authorities to protect the populations against oppression, and exactions of all kind on the part of the Government officials themselves.

There are districts, or spots, where the Lazes are not in sufficient numbers to endanger public security, and others where the peasants, being themselves landed proprietors, as at Ooniah, are not subject to oppression on the part of the Beys, but there is no place where the populations are free from official extortions.

I have lately received letters from Ordoo and Ooniah, giving a sad account of the treatment which the inhabitants receive at the hands of members of the Medjlisses, and of other Government officials.

Mention is especially made from Ooniah of a certain Nouri Bey, a member of the Idaré Medjliss, and of the Mufti of that town, who, it is said, collect by bribes as much as the Government levy by taxation from the district. This does not include profits made on tithes, of which they collected once a double amount by conniving with the tithe collector and falsifying the registers.

It is also hinted that some officials, owing to the profits which they derive themselves therefrom, tolerate the depredations of the Lazes, which seem to be daily increasing.

Mr. Doulcet's Report contains the same charge against the zaptiehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 323.

M. Doulcet to Consul Biliotti.

Samsoon, le 26 Mai, 1880.

Monsieur,

DÈS la réception de votre lettre j'ai fait prendre des informations au sujet des émigrations dont elle m'entretenait, et voici ce que je viens d'apprendre.

Deux cents familles environ, soit à peu près 1,500 personnes des campagnes des alentours de Tcharchamba, Unié, et Ordou seraient partis jusqu'à présent, et un grand nombre se préparent à en faire autant.

Les émigrants sont tous Arméniens et cultivateurs. Les motifs qui les déterminent à abandonner leurs foyers seraient—

1. Les vexations de tout genre qu'ils auraient à subir de la part des émigrés Kurdjis et d'autres, contre lesquels l'autorité est impuissante à les protéger, les

zaptiés eux-mêmes se joignent aux malfaiteurs pour les tourmenter, les voler, et les persécuter.

2. L'augmentation du loyer des terres qu'ils cultivent, et que les Beys propriétaires de ces terres prétendent leur imposer—augmentation qui atteindrait le double et le triple de ce qui a été payé jusqu'ici.

On attend l'Archevêque Arménien de Trébizonde pour régler ces questions, et si elles ne le sont pas à la satisfaction des intéressés, ils sont décidés de partir tous pour la Russie. Ils sont environ 2,000 familles.

Voilà ce que j'ai pu apprendre jusqu'à présent.

(Signé) DOULCET.

No. 324.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 68. Political.) *Prisrend, June* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that no improvement is discernible in the state of affairs in this part of the Province of Albania.

The Turkish Government appears to have lost all control, though a considerable amount of activity is shown in collecting taxes and arresting persons, principally Mussulmans, accused of fomenting an insurrectionary movement. Of these, it is said, about forty have been exiled within the last few days.

From Jakova the latest accounts are somewhat more favourable, as public security has been, for the moment, re-established; but outside the town it has become impossible for Christians to show themselves, except accompanied by armed persons.

The Government there seems to exercise no authority, as the administration of justice is entirely left in the hands of a self-constituted Tribunal composed of fanatical Turks.

At this moment eight Christians are there imprisoned, and about to undergo a trial for having shot a Turk in self-defence.

Here matters are not much better. There is a Mutessarif, or Vice-Governor, but his authority is merely nominal, as the Executive, the same as at Jakova, is a self-constituted body, presided over by one Hadji Omer Effendi, the instigator of Mehemet Ali's assassination, who now dismisses Government officials at his will and pleasure.

To venture outside the town, unless accompanied by an escort, is considered imprudent; and inside it has become so unsafe for the Christian population that only urgent business induces these to leave their houses.

A person from the district of Gilan called on me. He states that affairs there were getting worse from day to day. Christian villages are being plundered and the inhabitants massacred by the Turks. The authorities, when appealed to for protection, complain that they are totally unprovided with the means for maintaining order; so nothing is done, and the population left to shift for itself. The wonder is that an open insurrection has not already broken out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 325.

Abeddin Pasha to Mr. Goschen.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, June* 16.)

[*No date.*]

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 11 Juin concernant certaines dispositions du Traité de Berlin.

Votre Excellence me permettra de l'entretenir d'abord et seulement de la première partie de cette note relative à la question de la rectification des frontières Turco-Grecques, qui exige une réponse immédiate par suite de l'intention des Puissances de faire tenir le 16 de ce mois, par leurs Représentants à Berlin, une Conférence ayant pour objet cette rectification.

Je ne tarderai pas d'ailleurs à communiquer à votre Excellence la réponse de la Sublime Porte aux deux autres questions dont la note de votre Excellence entretient également le Gouvernement Ottoman.

La proposition de son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury concernant l'envoi sur les lieux d'une Commission Internationale pour déterminer la rectification des frontières a, en effet, donné lieu à de sérieuses objections de la part de la Sublime Porte au point de vue du caractère dont cette Commission devait être revêtue et du principe même de son mandat. Si la Sublime Porte n'a point donné jusqu'à présent une réponse définitive c'est qu'elle attendait et espérait que ces objections seraient prises en considération.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir reconnu et sans doute aussi fait reconnaître par l'Europe l'impossibilité d'une entente directe entre la Turquie et la Grèce par le fait de cette Puissance et par suite de ses exigences, ne pouvait avoir et n'avait réellement d'autre désir que celui de voir se produire la médiation prévue à l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin.

Cette médiation, que les Puissances se sont réservées d'offrir aux deux parties pour faciliter les autres négociations, nous continuons à l'appeler de tous nos vœux parce qu'elle nous semble seule propre à amener la prompte solution de cette question.

Les Puissances sont naturellement seules juges de la manière dont elles procéderont à la médiation qu'elles veulent offrir aux deux Etats, et la Sublime Porte n'aurait rien à objecter à la Conférence projetée si les informations fournies à ce sujet par la note de votre Excellence ne semblaient indiquer que les Représentants des Puissances sont appelés à prendre des décisions qui seraient inconciliables avec l'idée et le caractère d'une médiation. La Sublime Porte a toujours compris que la médiation des Puissances consisterait avant tout à examiner, à reconnaître, et à discuter tel ou tel projet de rectification de frontière en s'adressant à chacun des deux Etats, mais particulièrement à celui qui est appelé à faire tous les sacrifices.

Cette conviction, fondée sur l'observation rigoureuse de l'esprit et des termes de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, doit, sans doute, exclure toute crainte d'une atteinte à l'indépendance du Gouvernement Impérial et à la liberté de ses délibérations.

Si telle a été la pensée des Puissances, c'est-à-dire, si la décision qui, d'après la note de votre Excellence, doit être prise par leurs Représentants à Berlin n'a d'autre but que de préparer l'action conciliante destinée à amener une entente librement consentie par la Puissance propriétaire du territoire, le Gouvernement Impérial, rassuré sur le respect de son indépendance, n'aura plus d'autre préoccupation que de répondre aux ouvertures que les Puissances médiatrices voudront bien lui faire à ce sujet.

En ce qui touche la Commission qui, d'après la note de votre Excellence, pourrait se transporter sur le terrain pour régler les questions de détail se rattachant au tracé général, je me fais un devoir de faire remarquer à votre Excellence que cette Commission ne peut avoir, d'après les règles et usages les plus constants, d'autre mandat que celui d'appliquer sur les lieux la ligne sur laquelle l'accord se sera établi entre les Puissances et l'Etat qui est appelé à céder du territoire.

Je ne terminerai pas cette réponse à la première partie de la note de votre Excellence sans la prier, au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, de vouloir bien prendre note de sa résolution de faciliter la tâche des Puissances médiatrices.

La Sublime Porte, confiante dans la justice et dans la bienveillance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté et des autres Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, saisira toute occasion de témoigner de son bon vouloir et de sa déférence pour l'Europe.

No. 326.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 16, 1·30 A.M.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 15, 1880, 9 P.M.

I LEARN from Scutari that the local authorities have so worked upon Mahommedan Albanians that they are prepared to send a declaration of complete loyalty to the Sultan, but the Christians refuse to join them.

This is very favourable for advancing negotiations at Constantinople, as the Porte will not be able to plead that its hands are tied by North Albanians, the Christians not being at all likely to oppose the combined will of the Turkish Government and the Great Powers.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 327.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 11, I hear further from Scutari that, by orders from Constantinople, Hodo Bey is endeavouring to force, by threats, Christians to sign petition to the Sultan, but they still persist in their refusal.

I greatly fear that the Porte, having heard this project of arrangement, prefers reverting to memorandum of the 12th April. I must point out that this would entail coercive measures by Turks against the Roman Catholic mountaineers.

Celerity is absolutely necessary for success, and I impatiently await authority to return to Scutari solicited in my telegram No. 9.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 328.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.*

MY telegrams 11 and 12.

Concert with your Austrian colleague to reply in sense indicated.

No. 329.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 16, 1880.*

ITALIAN Minister has been informed by his Government that a complete understanding has been come to between England, France, and Italy to support at Berlin a line of frontier starting from the mouth of the Kalamas, including Metzovo and Janina, and following system of the mountains from thence to Olympus and mouth of the Peneus.

No. 330.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 16, 1880, 1 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by his Government to inform Greek Government that the Imperial Government will not separate the interests of Greece from those of which they have undertaken the defence; without assuming the initiative at the Conference, they will maintain the ground of their declarations at Berlin, they will support warmly every advantage that the Conference shall consider it possible to obtain for Greece, and will take part in all measures proposed to insure the execution of the collective decision of Europe.

No. 331.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16, 2·35 P.M.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 15, 1880, midnight.*

KADRI PASHA and Abeddin called on me to-day, both deeply anxious as to Greek frontier. Kadri Pasha suggested whether the Mediating Powers at Berlin could not make England their mouthpiece, and through England give the Porte the opportunity of stating their views on the line to be agreed to. The existence of Turkey was at stake, and England would give them the most impartial hearing.

"It was difficult to argue with five Powers. Surely we should not go beyond the Treaty and use force. Were there no means by which the Porte could be consulted before decision?" They were most anxious to settle. Abeddin Pasha took a different line. He said he could not argue about procedure, but he knew every inch of the ground. Larissa

they could not yield. If they did Salonica would infallibly be lost too. They would have to keep up an immense army to defend it, while the whole of the rich plains would be lost on which they could feed it. They would lose revenue, whilst requiring more soldiers than ever. There was a Greek-speaking population between Larissa and Salonica, who would certainly continue to intrigue. As to Janina, great bloodshed would certainly follow if it were ceded. All Albania would be up in arms. Nothing would be settled. The consequences were impossible to foresee. They wished to obey Europe, but the Sultan as Caliph could not hand over Mussulman population. He delivered, as he said, most confidentially, a line which Turkey would cede in the last resort, but it was not very distinct. I was very reserved throughout, and said the matter was not in my hands. It was now being settled at Berlin. He entreated me to telegraph; both Kadri and Abeddin were agitated, vehement, and imploring as if they were fighting for their lives, but not [group wrong]. I am unable to submit all Abeddin's geographical and ethnological arguments. I would of course enter upon them more fully but for your telegram that line of frontier to be proposed had been already agreed upon at Paris between Representatives of England and France.

No. 332.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16, 11 A.M.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 16, 1880, 1 A.M.*

ANSWER from the Porte to the identic note received. It deals only with Greek question. Porte would not wait till they could deal with all three questions, because, as the Conference meets at once, their answer on the Greek frontier was most urgent. After an excuse for not dealing with Lord Salisbury's proposal, they state their main argument, which is that the Treaty of Berlin contemplates and sanctions mediation, and not the imposing of a decision. As Kadri Pasha expressed himself to me to-day, "Under the Treaty you are the mediators, but you cannot claim to be the judges. We will accept mediation with gratitude now. It was an error not to have asked it before, but the Powers who might have been [group omitted] to take their stand on the Treaty of Berlin cannot in justice go entirely beyond it." Written answer says, in substance: "The exacting demands of Greece have brought about a situation in which Porte could only wish for the mediation of the Powers. This mediation, which the Powers reserved to themselves to offer to the two parties to facilitate negotiation, we still desire with all our heart, because it is the only course to lead to a prompt solution. Powers are the sole judges of manner in which they will proceed to the mediation which they claim to offer to the two States, and the Porte would have no objection to make to the proposed Conference if it did not appear intended to take decisions which would be at variance with idea and character of a mediation. Porte understood that mediation would consist in examining, recommending, and discussing such and such project of rectification, Powers addressing themselves to each of the two States, but specially to the one called upon to make all the sacrifices. This conviction, founded on the strict observance of the spirit and the letter of Article XXIX of the Treaty, must undoubtedly exclude all fear of a blow directed against the independence of the Porte, and the freedom of its deliberations.

"If that is the idea of the Powers, that is to say, if the decision to be taken at Berlin has no other object than to prepare conciliatory action intended to produce an understanding [?] that should be assented to by the Power who is the proprietor of the territory, the Porte, reassured that its independence will be respected, will only be anxious to respond to the overtures which the Mediating Powers may make. With regard to the Technical Commission the note says that according to all accepted rules it can have no other 'mandate' than to apply on the spot the line decided on by the Powers and the Power invited to cede the soil."

In conclusion, the reply begs me to take note of the resolution of the Porte to facilitate the task of the mediators; "the Porte, confiding in the justice and good-will of England and of the other signatories of the Treaty, will seize every opportunity to prove its good-will and deference to Europe."

No. 333.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 16.*)

(No. 45.) *Pera, June 16, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)
ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires tells me that English, French, and Italian Governments agree to line giving Janina and Metzovo to Greeks, but his telegram does not say what is given up in Thessaly. I should be glad to know probable line confidentially.

No. 334.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 83.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880, 5 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 39 of the 14th, Her Majesty's Government are agreed with the French Government on a line which is according to the Berlin Treaty, and which will comprehend Janina.

Germany will support this view, and probably the majority of the Conference will be in favour of it.

What is your advice as to the best mode of presenting the proposal to the Porte?

No. 335.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 87.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)
HAVE asked you to repeat latter part of your telegram No. 43, as it is not decypherable.

Do you understand that the Porte intends to send any one to Berlin as the Greeks have done?

We do not invite either Greece or Turkey to send any one, but Greece has acted wisely in doing so.

No. 336.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 88. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880, 7·35 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
THE following is the line agreed upon at Paris by M. de Freycinet and Sir L. Simmons:—

The frontier will follow the thalweg of the Kalamas from the mouth to its source near Han Kalibak, then the heights which form the line of separation between the basins of the Voiussa, of the Haliacmon, of the Mavroneri, and of their tributaries to the north, and those of the Kalamas, of the Arta, of the Aspropotamos, of the Salamyrias, and of their tributaries to the south, until it reaches Mount Olympus, the heights of which it will follow to their easternmost point in the Ægean Sea.

This line leaves to Greece the Lake of Janina and all its affluents, as well as Metzovo.

The above description applies to the Austrian Staff Map.

No. 337.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 161. Strictly Secret.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING telegram received from Mr. Green:—

[See No. 311.]

Ask Austrian Government if they are prepared to make solely or in concert such a declaration as the Prince desires.

No. 338.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880, 8 P.M.*
WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 77 and 78, Mr. Green has been instructed to concert with his Austrian colleague to reply in sense indicated.

No. 339.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 16, 9·51 P.M.*)

(No. 3. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 16, 1880, 6·10 P.M.*
CONFERENCE met first time to-day.

The French Ambassador proposed the line agreed to at Paris with Sir L. Simmons, which I seconded.

The Italian Ambassador accepted it in the name of his Government.

The Austrian, having no instructions, took it *ad referendum*.

The Russian Ambassador approved it in principle, but took it also *ad referendum*.

The President, Prince Hohenlohe, who approved it generally in the name of his Government, submitted to the Conference the proposals which had been communicated to him by the Turkish and Greek Governments.

The Turkish line is drawn from the northern end of the Gulf of Volo, and goes south of Larissa to the town of Arta.

The Greek line is drawn from the coast opposite the northern end of Corfu, and includes the northern slopes of Mount Olympus.

The three proposals are to be submitted to the Technical Commission, who are to report upon them to the Plenipotentiaries.

The second meeting of the Conference will take place on Saturday next.

The President invited us to keep our deliberations secret, to which we unanimously agreed.

No. 340.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 80.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.*
THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and read to me a despatch which he had received from his Government recapitulating what they understood to be the present intentions of the Powers with regard to the several questions in discussion with the Porte.

He then handed to me a copy of the reply which the Porte has returned to that portion of the identic note presented by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople which relates to the Greek Frontier question, and he went on to read to me some further observations which he had been instructed by telegraph to make to me on the subject.

The effect of these was to call attention to the fact that the Powers assigned to the Conference at Berlin were different from and in excess of the principle of mediation, and were consequently in contravention of the letter and spirit of Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin. Musurus Bey was instructed to urge the expediency of at least modifying the character of the Conference in such a manner as to avoid decisions being taken by the Powers without the participation or consent of the Porte. Such decisions would in consequence be incapable of execution, and would deservedly expose the Conference to the reproach of having endeavoured to secure the execution of the Treaty of Berlin by the neglect of one of its provisions explicitly recorded in the Article above mentioned. The telegram concluded by fresh assurances of the readiness of the Porte to make such sacrifices as were compatible with its dignity and the security of the Empire, in order to insure a satisfactory result for the mediation of the Powers, if exercised in the customary form.

I told Musurus Bey that I would carefully consider these representations, and would return an answer through your Excellency. I explained to him that my pre-

ference for this course was not on account of any want of confidence in him, or from unwillingness to discuss the matter with a Diplomatic Agent of his rank, but simply because I considered that, the Government having decided on sending a Special Ambassador to be the mouthpiece of their views at Constantinople, it was most convenient that the arrangement should be adhered to, and that we should not run the risk of confusion by endeavouring to negotiate on the same question in two places at once.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 341.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 70.)
Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 39 of the 14th instant relative to the probable attitude of the new Turkish Ministry and of the Albanians with regard to the Greek Frontier question, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have agreed preliminarily with the French Government on a line of frontier which is in accordance with the suggestions of the Congress of Berlin. It will include Janina in Greek territory, and will receive the support of Germany and probably the approval of the majority of the Conference.

I should be glad to learn your Excellency's opinion as to what would be the best mode of presenting the proposal to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 342.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 9. Conference.)
Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' telegram of the 12th instant, which was repeated to your Excellency on the following day, I transmit to you a copy of a despatch from his Excellency, forwarding a copy *in extenso* of the description of the frontier line agreed upon at the interview between his Excellency and M. de Freycinet, at which General Sir Lintorn Simmons and the two French officers, deputed by the French Government to assist the French Ambassador during the Berlin Conference, were present.*

I have to instruct your Excellency to support the adoption of the frontier line described in this paper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 343.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Damascus, June 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, in continuation of my preceding despatch No. 6, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, respecting the resignation of Midhat Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

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* No. 279.

Inclosure in No. 343.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,
Damascus, June 6, 1880.

REFERRING to my despatch dated the 31st May, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Sultan declined, on the 1st instant, to accept Midhat Pasha's resignation, inquiring his motives, and appealing to him as a patriot to remain, pending the realization of reforms now in contemplation.

His Highness at once replied, stating that his reasons would require volumes to detail, declining to sacrifice his name and service of forty years by remaining, the more so as any such personal sacrifice would be detrimental to the interests of the country by perpetuating present evils, and requesting to be at once replaced. The Sultan having stated that he had been unable to find any capable confidential Agent to send to confer with him as promised on the occasion of his former resignation, eight months ago, now invites him to send such a person to Constantinople, and promises to accede to his demands.

What action his Highness will take upon this request I have as yet had no time to ascertain before the closing of the mail, but I may be permitted to express a hope that such may be found potent enough, if he decides to remain, as I presume he will, to secure for him speedily the plenary powers he demands, and thus, at least, do away with the necessity under which he now labours of meeting every representation which I am, however reluctantly, obliged to make to him upon any matter with the fullest acquiescence in its justice, while throwing the blame of his inaction upon the edicts and regulations of the Ministers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 344.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17, 2·48 A.M.)

(No. 64. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, June 16, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 127.

Without saying a word which could possibly betray Mr. Green's most secret and confidential information, I alluded in my conversation to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs to question of Montenegro, when his Excellency said he had sent orders to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires to urge most strongly upon the Prince the acceptance of the new proposal, and he was happy to say His Highness had in principle accepted it; to which I answered that I was glad of this latter fact, as it had been asserted that one of the Powers, while encouraging ostensibly, had been secretly discouraging the Prince to accept, adding that, if this were true, the Power which had been guilty of such an act of turpitude would deserve the scorn of all the other Powers of Europe. His Excellency replied that he quite agreed with me, that it would be infamous.

I feel it only right to express my belief that if the Italian Chargé d'Affaires has acted as described, he must have done so on his own responsibility.

(Repeated to Embassies and Mr. Green.)

No. 345.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 4. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, June 17, 1880.

PRINCE BISMARCK gave a great dinner yesterday in honour of the members of the Greek Frontier Commission on the occasion of the first meeting of the Conference.

No. 346.

Delegates of the Albanian League to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 17.)

Pera, June 17, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

AU moment où une Conférence va se réunir à Berlin dans le but d'examiner la question de la rectification des frontières Turco-Helléniques, le peuple Albanais se fait un devoir d'exposer humblement ses voeux et ses aspirations à l'illustre Assemblée.

Nous respectons les droits d'autrui et nous demandons en retour le respect des nôtres. Nous sommes loin de vouloir projeter des empiétements aux dépens de nos voisins, et nous exigeons que ceux-ci abandonnent de leur côté leurs entreprises ambitieuses. Nous l'avons déclaré lors de la réunion du Congrès de Berlin et nous le répétons aujourd'hui, les velléités annexionnistes de la Grèce sont injustifiables ; nous protestons contre tout démembrement de notre chère patrie; la perte de positions aussi intimement liées à notre existence nationale que Janina, Arta, et Preveza équivaudrait à notre arrêt de mort ; plutôt que d'y souscrire nous aimerons mieux périr avec nos femmes et nos enfants. Le peuple Albanais est résolu à se lever comme un seul homme contre l'aliénation d'une petite parcelle de son sol natal.

L'Europe est trop juste pour méconnaître nos droits. Nous faisons appel à ses sentiments d'équité et nous nous en remettons à elle du soin de nous épargner les grandes calamités que nous réservent les prétentions outrecuidantes de la Grèce. Le monde impartial sait aujourd'hui à quoi s'en tenir sur ces prétentions bien qu'on ait eu soin de les cacher sous mille couleurs.

(Signé) AHMED FAHRI VASLIL.
YOUSSOUF ZIA VRETO.
IBRAHIM LOUFTI.
IBRAHIM DENIR.
SADIK BEHA.
A. COSTA OMAR.
CHFKH HUSSEIN SANI.
FRACHER ISAMIL BEY.

No. 347.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[*]

(No. 173.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1880, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me the answer of the Porte to the part of the identic note relating to Greece.

[† A copy was sent to you on the 16th instant.]

[‡ It is substantially the same as that telegraphed by Mr. Goschen in his telegram of the 16th, which has been repeated to you.]

No doubt it has also been communicated to the other Powers.

Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to reply that they cannot regard the observations of the Porte as well-founded. The Powers have been compelled to confer among themselves as to the rectification of frontier proper to be adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Berlin Congress, in consequence of the delays of the Porte, and the evident inutility of attempting to bring about a settlement by negotiations between Greece and Turkey.

The former Power had already applied to the Powers for mediation, and the Powers had decided that the only means of bringing the matter to an effectual issue was that they should settle upon the line of frontier which they considered right and proper, and should then bring it to the knowledge of the Turkish and Greek Governments in the confidence that the expression of the opinion of Europe would be received by both Powers as conclusive.

Although, for the reason stated, the Conference has been confined to the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, they will be ready to listen to and give due weight to any arguments which either Turkey or Greece may think fit to present to the Conference.

[*] Also to Paris, Rome, Berlin, and Vienna. † To Paris and Berlin.
‡ To St. Petersburgh, Vienna, and Rome.

Ask the Government to which you are accredited whether they concur in this project of reply, and will instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to concert with Mr. Goschen as to giving it in an identic note.

No. 348.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1880, 11·45 A.M.

YOURS 12.

You are authorized to return at once to Scutari, after replying to the Prince as instructed in my telegram of yesterday in concert with your Austrian colleague.

No. 349.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 17, 7·15 A.M.)

(No. 47.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, June 17, 1880, 2 A.M.

AT confidential meeting of Ambassadors to-day unanimous opinion prevailed that it would be more opportune to communicate proposed new exchange of territory to the Porte when answer to identic note on the Montenegrin frontier is received.

Am I to communicate more with regard to Albanians to my colleagues, and eventually to the Porte, than is contained in your telegrams of the 3rd June, Nos. 26 and 27 ?

No. 350.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 17, 5 P.M.)

(No. 48.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, June 17, 1880, 1 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 88, does not Berlin Treaty line end at mouth of Salambria on the east ? See War Office map. New proposed line seems to give Greece additional territory to the north of Salambria. Is that so ?

No. 351.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 17, 6·43 P.M.)

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, June 17, 1880, 2·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 82.

Please telegraph whether you have No. 43 quite clear now. I have seen summary of Porte's answer to identic note which French Ambassador sent to Paris. Lord Lyons might compare it with mine.

I gathered from Turkish Ministers that they did not intend to send any one to Berlin. I hinted at expediency of their doing so, but did not urge it as I thought it might be embarrassing if they asked longer delay than Powers might wish to grant, and as I had no instructions whatever to recommend such a course. From the present Turkish point of view it would have been unwise to send Representatives to the Conference as they ask that the proposal when made should be submitted to them as from the Mediators.

Turkish Ministers dwell strongly on different position of Greece, to whom all she obtains is a gain, and Turkey, who is to be compelled to hand over territory.

With reference to your telegram No. 83, mode of "presenting proposal to Porte" must depend on whether it is a proposal or a decision, and on the answer of the Powers to the reply of the Porte to our identic note. If Berlin Conference takes an absolute opinion, I am clearly of opinion that it should be communicated to the Porte in a second identic note.

No. 352.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 94. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880, 6·35 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government fully appreciate the difficulty you must experience in dealing with the Montenegrin question in consequence of the communications respecting it having been necessarily carried on at Cettinjé and Vienna, and in such haste, and the awkwardness of going to the Porte with a new proposal while the identic note remains unanswered in this point.

Could you not, however, take advantage of this delay of the Porte, and intimate to them that the Powers will be ready, as a means of helping them in the matter, to suggest another arrangement instead of the Kuči Kraïna cession under the April memorandum, which the Porte is unable to execute; and then tell them of the new proposals. It is so obviously to the advantage of the Porte to settle the question, and thus rid themselves of the obligation of the April memorandum, that they ought not to hesitate to accept the proposal, if put to them in this way.

If the territorial cession could be immediately arranged, the autonomy which the North Albanians desire for the Vilayet of Scutari might be left to be settled by the Eastern Roumelian Commission, who would also have to settle the provincial laws for the Vilayets of Janina and Kossovo.

No. 353.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

MR. GOSCHEN has been requested to try and arrange for the immediate acceptance by the Porte of the new territorial arrangement, and has been told that the question as to the autonomy which the North Albanians desire for the Vilayet of Scutari might be left to be settled by the Eastern Roumelian Commission, who would also have to settle the provincial laws for the Vilayets of Janina and Kossovo.

You should keep his Excellency fully informed. It is most important that there should be no misunderstanding, and that everything that passes should be communicated to the Embassy.

No. 354.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880, 7 P.M.

ITALIAN Government have sent orders to their Chargé d'Affaires to urge upon Prince acceptance of new proposal.

No. 355.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to my other telegram of to-day, you may concert with your Austrian colleague as to promising that the British and Austrian Governments will support in the Eastern Roumelian Commission the grant of a good system of local administration for the Vilayet of Scutari.

The other Governments will, I feel no doubt, support it also.

No. 356.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 17, 9·10 P.M.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 17, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

HAVE just received your telegram No. 14, but no other telegram from your Lordship has reached me since No. 10 of the 14th instant.

No. 357.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880.

I HAVE learnt from the Acting British Consul at Canea that it was the intention of the Governor-General of Crete to proceed to Constantinople on the 7th of this month in order to impress upon the Porte the necessity of putting into execution the decisions come to by the last General Assembly of the Cretans, and I have to request your Excellency to give your support to Photiades Bey in the representations he may make to the Porte on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 358.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880.

SIR HENRY LAYARD has forwarded to me, in his despatch No. 516 of the 26th ultimo, a copy of a note addressed to the Porte by the foreign Representatives, in which they transmit a copy of the Report of their Dragomans on the new Turkish Civil and Criminal Code, and call the attention of the Turkish Government to those of its provisions which the Report points out as being at variance with existing Treaties and the Capitulations.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve Sir Henry Layard having joined his colleagues in making this representation to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 359.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 87.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1880.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 6 of the 31st, in which your Excellency gives an account of a conversation you had with the Russian Ambassador with regard to the inquiry which it is proposed to make into the alleged destruction of Turkish villages in Eastern Roumelia, and the ill-treatment of Mussulmans in that province, and I have to acquaint you that the language you held to M. de Novikow has the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 360.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 89.)
Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a telegram from Musurus Pasha which was communicated to me on the 9th instant by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires.* This telegram requests replies to the points raised in the letter from the Sultan's Secretary to your Excellency. I told Musurus Bey that these questions had been answered by you in a manner which was entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government, and that it would be better not to discuss the same matter in two places.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 361.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 92.)
Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 561 of the 1st instant, reporting a conversation he had with the Sultan with regard to a Constitution for the Turkish Protestant community, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held to His Majesty by Sir Henry Layard.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 362.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 259.)
Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

My Lord,

THE reply of the Porte to that part of the identic note which relates to the Greek frontier has been communicated to me to-day by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and I have transmitted a copy of it to your Excellency in another despatch.

It is substantially the same as reported by Mr. Goschen in his telegram of yesterday, which was transmitted to you by telegraph, and it has no doubt also been communicated to the other Powers.

To this note Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to reply that they cannot regard the observations of the Porte as well-founded. It is owing to the delays of the Porte, and the evident inutility of attempting to bring about a settlement of the Greek frontier question by negotiations between Turkey and Greece, that the Powers have been compelled to confer amongst themselves as to the rectification of frontier proper to be adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Berlin Congress.

Greece had already applied to the Powers for their mediation, and the Powers had decided that the only way of bringing the matter to an effectual issue was, that they should settle upon the line of frontier which they considered right and proper, and should then bring it to the knowledge of the Turkish and Greek Governments, in the confidence that the expression of the opinion of Europe would be accepted by both Powers as conclusive.

Although, for the reason stated, the Conference has been confined to the Representatives of the mediating Powers, they will be ready to listen to and give due weight to any arguments which either Turkey or Greece may think fit to present to the Conference.

I have to request your Excellency to ascertain whether the Government to which you are accredited concur in this project of reply, and will instruct their Representative at the Porte to concert with Her Majesty's Ambassador for embodying it in an identic note to the Turkish Government.

* No 104.

† Also to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.

The substance of this despatch has been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 363.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 16.)
Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government concur with the opinion you express in your despatch No. 12 of the 26th ultimo that the circumstances of the districts of Scutari, Janina, and Pristina require separate consideration, and they therefore approve your intention to object to the immediate application to these vilayets of the Règlement drawn up under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, should the Porte propose, as appears probable from Sawas Pasha's language to you, to apply that Règlement to all the European provinces indiscriminately.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 364.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18, 10·15 A.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 17, 1880, 11·55 P.M.*

AT confidential meeting yesterday inquiry into state of minor populations in Eastern Roumelia was discussed at some length. I explained instructions of 18th May on which I should act, and hoped that the other Powers would individually take similar steps, stating that I knew Russian Ambassador objected to collective action.

Latter stated his insuperable objection to inquiry into state of Greek and Turkish populations in any form; said that it was taking the side of the Mussulmans against the Christians, it was an indictment against the young Government, and so forth. He exaggerated the scope of the proposed inquiry with a view to show its inexpediency. All, however, acknowledged that, in view of English Blue Book published and the reports we had received, we were in a special position. French Ambassador was prepared to go with us entirely. Italian partially. Austrian would have supported Kirdjali and Aïdos inquiries, but hesitated at the wider terms as to the persecution of Mussulmans, not on principle, but mainly on account of Russian attitude. All of us were agreed to do our best to act so as to avoid appearance of difference.

It struck me and German Ambassador also that England, France, and perhaps Italy, taking, if not collective, yet parallel action, whilst other three Powers stood aloof, would present an undesirable appearance. So I suggested to-day, with French Ambassador's concurrence, that England and France should send Colonel Wilson with instructions as telegraphed to you and approved by you, adding to these instructions that Her Majesty's Government desired that he should be able to obtain information through as many distinct channels as possible, so as to secure a thoroughly impartial Report.

I had obtained from my colleagues here the promise that they would instruct their Agents in Eastern Roumelia to offer him every facility for obtaining trustworthy information. German and Austrian considered this most reasonable and difficult to refuse. Russian Ambassador, though still recalcitrant, will telegraph, but it will want your support at St. Petersburgh.

I consider we are bound by Parliamentary engagement and instructions of 18th May to the inquiry. It was exceedingly important, in view of hostility to isolated or individual action, to keep all together. Hence my continued efforts for the recognition of our inquiry. And this is the general feeling.

No. 365.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June* 18, 1880.

SERIOUS change has been made in the composition of inquiry. Austrian Judge and Governor-General's Hungarian Secretary, both very important, are deterred by Permanent Committee. Zlataroff also substituted for Borthwick as President; but this is less serious, as the former behaved well on the Kirdjali Commission. Dr. Slansky, one of the violent Bulgarian party, is nominated to be Director of Finance, *vice* Schmidt. I telegraph this as information only, and as illustrating the Roumelian situation.

No. 366.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18, 7·26 P.M.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June* 18, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 94, I will communicate at once with my colleagues. Meanwhile, please inform me whether Her Majesty's Government have accepted or rejected the condition named by the Prince of Montenegro, that he should obtain guarantee that the new arrangement would be carried out.

No. 367.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) , *June* 18, 1880.

FIRST official meeting of Commission held yesterday. The procedure and formal business was settled. Ottoman Commissioners accepted voting by majority after a short discussion. Presidency was given to Assim Pasha. New law is being amended. Assim Pasha hopes to be able to present half of it on Monday, but I do not expect it myself then.

No. 368.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 18, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 11.

My Austrian colleague and I have been careful in all our communications to Montenegrin Government to make it understood that new proposal does not vitiate arrangement of 12th April, should Porte not accede formally.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 369.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18, 9·20 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 18, 1880, 5 P.M.

MY [?] Nos. 12 and 13. In reply to communication made by me to-day in concert with my Austrian colleague, Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that whilst [he] has full confidence in the good intentions towards the Principality, His Highness wishes once again to point out deceptions to which he has been subjected by the Porte, and declare that any arrangement not having for foundation the certainty of a prompt, loyal, and regular execution, will be considered as void, when Montenegro will revert to the Memorandum of the 12th April. Prince, in making this declaration, nevertheless feels safe in the hands of the Powers, and will await their instruction, as he does not wish to come in contact with Turkish authorities until all is duly settled.

I return to Scutari this evening.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 370.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18, 5·20 P.M.)

(No. 6. Conference. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 18, 1880.

THE Conference meets to-morrow. We expect Austria to adhere to the line proposed by France, England, and Italy.

The attitude of Russia is still mysterious.

Is there anything you wish me to add to what I have already said?

No. 371.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18, 10·35 P.M.)

(No. 7. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 18, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 130.

Prince Bismarck does not think it opportune to send a reply to the answer of the Porte to the part of the identic note relating to Greece while the Conference is sitting. His Highness proposes to leave the Turkish reply unanswered until the Conferences are over.

No. 372.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 18, 6 P.M.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 18, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 136.

Italian Government concur in your Lordship's project of reply to the Porte's answer respecting that portion of identic note which regards the Greek Frontier question, and will instruct Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to concert with Her Majesty's Ambassador and Representatives of the other Powers a further identic note in accordance with terms suggested.

No. 373.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 3. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 3, Conference, in what way were the proposals of the Turkish Government communicated to the President?

No. 374.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880, 5 P.M.

MY telegrams to Mr. Green Nos. 11 and 12 of 16th, repeating Sir H. Elliott's 77 and 78, and No. 13 of the 16th, directing him to concert with his Austrian colleague to reply to Prince of Montenegro in sense indicated in telegrams from Sir H. Elliot, have not reached Mr. Green.

I have re-telegraphed to Mr. Green the missing telegrams.

No. 375.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880, 5·50 P.M.

ARRANGEMENTS for East Roumelia inquiry, reported in your telegram No. 51, have been approved.

Lord Dufferin has been instructed to invite the concurrence of the Russian Government.

No. 376.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 51, you should invite concurrence of Russian Government in arrangements agreed to by French and German Ambassadors for East Roumelian inquiry to be conducted by Colonel Wilson.

No. 377.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 79. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador at Berlin telegraphs that he accepted the French proposal for the Greek frontier absolutely as regards its principle, and *ad referendum* only as regards the details.

He adds that the Russian Ambassador stated that though the proposal went further than the Treaty of Berlin, he agreed to it because the Treaty was more in accordance with the natural frontier of Greece, and because, after the Treaty had been departed from in this instance, it would be easier to relax or alter some of its other arrangements.

Baron Haymerle says that he will wait for the written Report of this sitting of the Conference before answering this communication; but if he finds the language of the Russian Ambassador to have been such as stated in the telegram, he will instruct Austrian Ambassador at Berlin emphatically to declare that the Austrian Government accepted the proposal because they believed it fairly to carry out the intentions recorded in the Treaty, and that he would not have given his consent to it if he had thought it went further.

No. 378.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18, 7·54 P.M.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1880, 5 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 163.

Baron Haymerle had not thought it would be necessary to send written reply to the Turkish answer to the identic note; but as Her Majesty's Government have taken the initiative in this matter, he will have no objection to adopt the course proposed by them if the German Cabinet, with which he has already communicated on the subject, is also willing to follow course. The terms of the proposed note seem to him very proper.

No. 379.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 48 of yesterday, and I have to state that the War Office map to which your Excellency refers cannot be relied upon, as it is only a rough sketch.

My telegram of the 16th contained the text of the agreement which was come to at Paris between Sir Lintorn Simmons and M. de Freycinet, and is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 380.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government approve the arrangements which you report in your telegram No. 51 of the 17th to have been made for instituting an inquiry into the treatment of the minor populations in Eastern Roumelia; and they have desired Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to invite the concurrence of the Russian Government thereto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 381.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880.

IN your telegram No. 3, Conference, Secret, of the 10th instant, your Excellency informs me that at the first meeting of the Conference the President submitted to it the proposals which had been communicated to him by the Turkish and Greek Governments. I have to-day telegraphed to ask you in what way the Turkish proposals were communicated to Prince Hohenlohe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 382.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 303.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a note addressed by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Goschen, in reply to the identic note addressed by his Excellency to the Porte on the 11th instant.*

This note has been communicated to me by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in London.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 383.

Mr. G. S. Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, inclosed for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch, with copies of its two inclosures, I addressed on the 5th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting an outrage committed in the vicinity of Catterina, a district in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. BLUNT.

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* No. 325.

Inclosure 1 in No. 383.

Mr. G. S. Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Separate.) *Salonica, June 5, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Excellency's information, the translation of a letter which the local Greek newspaper, "Hermis," had recently received and published from its correspondent at Catterina.

The writer, as your Excellency will perceive, gives an account of the crimes recently committed in that district, the most hideous of all being, as he describes, that perpetrated in the mill of St. Denis.

Immediately I was informed of the outrage in question I caused inquiries to be made with a view to ascertain the real facts of the case, which seem to be briefly these:—

On the 23rd ultimo, intelligence having been received at Catterina that a band of brigands had made its appearance in the vicinity of the mill of St. Denis, a detachment of the troops quartered there was forthwith sent in pursuit. Coming up with the band the next morning a serious fight ensued, resulting, as it is stated, in the defeat of the troops, who had to fall back in disorder, closely pursued by the brigands for a short distance beyond the mill.

The following day, the 24th ultimo, as the Abbot of St. Denis, accompanied by two natives, was proceeding to the mill to hand it over to other tenants, he found the door closed, and upon forcing it open the sight he beheld was heartrending. He there found the five dead bodies of his former tenants, piled up one over the other, horribly mutilated and otherwise disfigured by gun wounds, sword cuts, and other signs of torture, which the poor creatures evidently had to suffer before they were put to death.

After identifying the bodies the Abbot hurried back to Catterina, and reported all he had seen that same morning to the civil and military authorities, pointing out to them the urgency of instituting a strict inquiry into the matter with a view to the discovery of the authors of this shocking outrage.

The authorities, acting upon the advice of the Abbot, had the bodies removed to Catterina and exposed to a *post-mortem* examination before they were interred.

Herewith inclosed I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency a translated copy of the medical Report as it was drawn at the time by the communal and military doctors at Catterina.

The authorities, who had meanwhile taken the necessary measures to apprehend the perpetrators of this foul murder, have hitherto failed, I am sorry to state, to discover the real culprits.

There is, however, a belief, both in town here and at Catterina, that the real criminals are the soldiers themselves who composed the detachment that was sent in pursuit of the brigands. This belief, which is also shared by the Austrian and Greek Consuls-General here, is based, it would seem, upon the supposition that the troops, having lost all self-control at the defeat they sustained, made a descent upon the mill and wreaked their vengeance by ruthlessly murdering its inmates. Whether this be true or not I have not yet had the means of ascertaining, though, according to another version which is equally credited, the brigands themselves are supposed to have been the authors of the crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 383.

Extract from the "Hermis" of May $\frac{17}{29}$, 1880.

THE sight of five mutilated corpses in a cart yesterday, which were found in the mill of St. Denis at a distance of hardly half-an-hour from this place and near the village of Kereshli, was a pitiable spectacle.

It has not yet been discovered by whom this ominous crime was perpetrated, and it is unknown at what time it happened. The Abbot of St. Denis and two others went there very early yesterday morning in order to hand over the mill to other tenants, and found the corpses piled up inside.

The authorities here were at once informed of the crime, and a cart was immediately sent to transport them here. It is impossible to describe the spectacle, and the Medjliss here and the military authorities at once sent the communal and military doctors, who described the manner of murder.

The bodies were five in number—that of Dimitrios Zisi, of Letohori, aged 18; that of Constantine Zahoutous, also of Letohori, aged 45; John Kristo, 35, from Letohori; Dimitrios Kastamahos, aged 40, of Letohori; and George Grevenites, from Grevena.

According to the doctors' report, the men were first mercilessly beaten and afterwards murdered. The bodies had two or three gun wounds and other sword wounds. The skulls of all were brainless, because they showed not only gun wounds received at close quarters, but also sword or hatchet wounds. In addition to the crimes referred to in the above letter, others of a similar nature we hear were committed at Catterina.

On Easter Monday a shepherd, aged 17, was brought to the military head-quarters, and made complaints against some soldiers of having been robbed of some of his flock. That same evening the young shepherd disappeared: eight days after he was found murdered, with his head cut to pieces and his hands tied. On the $\frac{14}{26}$th May a peasant 70 years old was found dead in a similar condition on Mr. Bizzo's Tchiflik of Kitros. This last crime is still more curious, because within this Tchiflik there are soldiers on guard at the salt pans. We repeat that the strictest investigation of these crimes must be made, and the guilty must receive an exemplary punishment. At the last moment we are informed that his Excellency the Vali, as soon as he was informed of the perpetration of these crimes, hurriedly went to Catterina.

Catterina, May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 383.

Report of Post-mortem Examination of Five Corpses held at Catterina on the $\frac{13}{25}$th May at 8 o'clock P.M.

(Translation.)

BY order of the local authorities, and in the presence of the Cadi and of the Lieutenant of Gendarmerie, the present *post-mortem* examination of the five corpses mentioned below, which were found in a mill at a distance of three-quarters of an hour from this place, was held.

These five corpses, lying on a cart before the church here, had their hands and arms bound, and had the following wounds, which were inflicted at close quarters:—

1. Demetrius Zesi, aged 18, of Litochori, was shot right through both temples transversally. The right cheek and side of the neck are burnt with powder; the middle of the cheek shows a revolver wound.

2. Constantine Zakhutanos, aged 45, of Litochori, has contusions all over the abdomen. A little to the left there is a gun wound extending upwards to the right and then down through the loins. On the left side of the abdomen there is a revolver wound extending transversally as far as the right side. There is also a gun wound right through the thorax. The skull is brainless, having been cleft by a sword into several parts.

3. John Christo, aged 35, of Litochori, has contusions all over the body. Under the left nipple there is a wound right through the thorax, extending upwards to the right, and passing through the right nipple. On the left side of the abdomen there are two revolver wounds passing transversally to the right side. There is likewise a gun wound right through the left temple, and a sword wound extending from the temple to the side of the neck.

4. Demetrius Catamacos, 40, of Litochori, has contusions all over the body. The clothes covering the belly and the parts about the navel are cut up. The eyes scooped out. In the upper part of the neck, on the right side and under the ear, there are two gun wounds extending upwards to the left to the temples, which, as well as the left arm, are shattered.

5. George Grevenites, aged 50, was shot through both temples. The wound is transversal. There is also a wound on the larynx.

From the bruises which the bodies bear, we think they were bound, then beaten, and, after the lapse of at least three hours, murdered.

The murder, from the corruption of the bodies, which has already begun, must

have taken place at least two days ago. From the cartridges found in the mill, the guns were breechloaders.

Catterina, May $\frac{1}{14}$, 1880.

No. 384.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 29.)

Therapia, June 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, extracts taken from the "Stamboul" newspaper of yesterday publishing an Imperial Hatt appointing Kadri Pasha to the post of Prime Minister, and giving a biographical sketch of his Highness and of the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abeddin Pasha.

Your Lordship will observe that it is stated in the Hatt that the Sultan's sole wish is fixed on the speedy execution of the reforms required for the administration of the country in conformity with the dispositions, the aptitude, and the customs of the populations of the Empire, and that these reforms should be brought about so as effectually to protect public interests, with a special regard for the prerogatives of His Majesty's sovereignty while preserving and developing friendly relations with the Great Powers.

Significant comments are made on two points in this Hatt. The reference to the nature of the reforms required is considered in some quarters as a protest against the views that reforms should be pressed on the Sultan from without by foreign Powers, and the reference to the Sultan's prerogative is taken as a protest against the demands of Mahmoud Nedim that Ministerial responsibility should be established.

At my request Sir A. Sandison, the First Dragoman of Her Majesty's Embassy, has prepared a memorandum, of which a copy is also inclosed, containing such particulars as he has been able to obtain with regard to the previous careers of the new Ministers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 384.

Extracts from the "Stamboul" of June 10, 1880.

CHANGEMENT MINISTÉRIEL ET HATT IMPÉRIAL.—Hier à 11 heures du matin, à la Franque, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a envoyé Remzi Bey, un de ses Chambellans, au Kiosk de Saïd Pacha, à Nichan-tach, pour redemander à son Altesse les sceaux de l'Etat.

En même temps son Excellence Kadri Pacha, Ministre du Commerce, était mandé au Palais de Yildiz où, en présence des hauts dignitaires de l'Empire, Sa Majesté lui annonçait qu'il était élevé aux fonctions de Premier Ministre.

Le nouveau Chef du Cabinet est resté quelques heures auprès du Souverain pour s'entretenir avec lui des questions importantes intéressant la situation de l'Empire; puis, prenant congé de Sa Majesté, s'est rendu à la Sublime Porte, avec le cérémonial usité en pareilles circonstances, pour recevoir l'investiture officielle de ses nouvelles fonctions.

Il était 4 heures de l'après-midi quand le cortège a quitté Yildiz Kiosque.

Son Altesse Kadri Pacha était accompagné de son Altesse le Chéil-ul-Islam, de son Excellence Ali Fuad Bey, Premier Secrétaire de Sa Majesté et porteur du Firman d'Investiture, et de plusieurs fonctionnaires du Palais et de la Sublime Porte.

Tout le cortège a pris place dans des caïques de gala stationnant au quai de Teheragan, et s'est ensuite dirigé vers Sirkeji-Iskelessi.

Deux bataillons de la Garde Impériale, musiques en tête, attendaient le nouveau Premier Ministre et sa suite, l'un à l'échelle de débarquement, l'autre devant le perron de la Sublime Porte.

Une foule compacte de curieux était échelonnée sur tout le parcours derrière la haie formée par la troupe.

Le cortège, débarqué à Sirkedji-Iskelessi, s'est mis en selle sur de magnifiques chevaux du Palais, et s'est rendu dans cet appareil à la Sublime Porte où les Ministres

au grand complet, y compris Abeddin Pacha, élevé aujourd'hui au rang de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et une foule considérable de personnages officiels attendaient les nouveaux venus.

Aussitôt que le Premier Ministre et sa suite furent entrés dans la salle du Sedaret, son Excellence Aly Fuad Bey, Premier Secrétaire de Sa Majesté, a remis le Firman Impérial, enveloppé de satin rouge, au Maître des Cérémonies qui en a aussitôt, à haute voix, donné lecture à l'assistance.

En voici la traduction:—

"Mon Illustre Vizir Kadri Pacha,

"Ayant jugé opportun de relever de ses fonctions Saïd Pacha, et prenant en considération votre capacité et votre fidélité, nous vous confions le poste de Premier Ministre, tout en vous autorisant à conserver la direction du Ministère du Commerce. Nous confions le Portefeuille des Affaires Etrangères à Abeddin Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Salonique, en l'élevant au rang de Vizir.

"L'unique objet de nos désirs est l'exécution, dans le plus bref délai, des réformes dont l'administration du pays a besoin.

"Ces réformes doivent être réalisées en conformité des dispositions, de l'aptitude, et des mœurs de la population de notre Empire. Elles doivent être accomplies de manière à protéger efficacement l'intérêt public, tout en sauvegardant les prérogatives de notre souveraineté et en conservant, et même en développant, les relations amicales que nous entretenons avec les Grandes Puissances.

"Je fonde bon espoir, pour la réussite de ces sujets de mes préoccupations, dans l'intelligence et la fidélité de mes Ministres.

"Que la Divine Providence nous accorde à tous le succès!"

Après la lecture de ce Hatt Impérial un Uléma a fait les prières d'usage pour la réussite des intentions souveraines.

Puis, chaque membre de l'assistance a félicité individuellement les nouveaux élus de la faveur Impériale, et peu à peu la foule s'est écoulée pour laisser seuls réunis les membres du Cabinet.

LES NOUVEAUX MINISTRES.—Quelques indications biographiques sur les nouveaux élus de la faveur souveraine.

Son Altesse Kadri Pacha est originaire de Sulémanie (Province de Bagdad). Venu très-jeune à Constantinople, il y a étudié le Français, et comme cette langue était alors peu répandue parmi nos fonctionnaires il a dû à cette connaissance, malgré son jeune âge, d'être nommé traducteur du Divan Impérial.

Durant les Administrations de Fuad Pacha et A'ali Pacha, ses aptitudes furent remarquées et lui procurèrent un rapide avancement.

Tour à tour nommé Président du 6e Cercle, Préfet de Stamboul, Gouverneur-Général de Bagdad, Président du Conseil d'Etat, Ministre du Commerce, il conserve aujourd'hui ce dernier portefeuille tout en prenant la Présidence du Cabinet, pour laquelle, les lecteurs du "Stamboul" se le rappellent, nous avons déjà annoncé il y a un an la candidature du nouvel élu.

Son altesse Kadri Pacha est gendre de feu Ismaïl Pacha, Hékim-Bachi du Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid, puis Ministre de la Police, et Gouverneur-Général de plusieurs provinces, mort dernièrement.

Son Excellence Abeddin Pacha est natif d'Albanie, de famille bourgeoise Musulmane; il a fait ses études à l'Université de Janina et à celle d'Athènes.

Lors de la formation d'un corps d'Aides-de-camp composé d'éléments appartenant à toute les nationalités de l'Empire, le Sultan Abd-ul-Aziz, sur l'indication de Fuad Pacha, l'avait attaché à sa personne ainsi que plusieurs autres Albanais.

Après le licenciement de ce corps, Abeddin Bey est resté plusieurs années sans emploi. C'est pendant ces loisirs qu'il a composé un Traité de Calcul pour les affaires de Bourse.

Sous le Grand Vizirat de Husséin Avni Pacha, ses aptitudes furent appréciées et le firent nommer au poste de Commissaire Impérial près la Bourse de Galata, qu'il a conservé jusqu'à ces derniers temps, où il a été nommé Inspecteur des Réformes pour la Province de Diarbékir. Ce mandat accompli, Son Excellence a été nommé Gouverneur-Général de Sivas, après Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique, qu'il a quitté pour prendre hier le portefeuille des Affaires Etrangères.

Inclosure 2 in No. 384.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

KADRI PASHA, belonging to a highly respectable family of Aintab, commenced his career, as a young man, in the capacity of Secretary to the Council of State, of which he afterwards became a member, and having successively filled the posts of President of the Pera Municipality, of Prefect of Constantinople, and of Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Public Works, rapidly rose to the position of Minister of that Department.

He did not, however, remain long in office, and on being superseded, was appointed Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Marine, after which he once more became Prefect of Constantinople. The time he remained in office in this capacity was of short duration also, but the next step in the direction of distinguished advancement was his nomination to the high post of President of the Council of State,

On ceasing to hold that office he was sent as Governor-General to Bagdad where he remained about a year or so, namely, from 1878 to 1879. Since that period he has successively occupied the posts of Minister of the Interior, of Commerce, &c.

The various opportunities thus offered him of bringing into notice his natural talent and administrative ability, have more or less secured him the reputation of an able, active, and intelligent Minister, but little is known about his private character and principles; some say he is not open to corruption, others dispute the fact, while most of those who have known him will concur in saying that he is somewhat fanatical and opposed to all progress and measures of reform based on European notions and experience.

As, however, he is sufficiently intelligent to realize the dangers of the situation, he is not likely, it is thought, to persist in the policy of previous Administrations, especially under the guidance of an influential Minister like Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who sees, at any rate, the absolute necessity of energetic and immediate action in the direction of reforms, &c., and of a thorough change in the present system of conducting the Government.

Aheddin Pasha, from all accounts, belongs to a respectable family of Greek origin in Epirus, and is represented as having received a thorough Greek education.

When he first arrived at Constantinople, he was introduced to the Palace by Fuad Pasha, when he joined Sultan Abdul Aziz's body guard consisting of the Notables of the various subject races of the Empire. He afterwards obtained an appointment in the Porte's service as its Commissioner or Inspector at the Galata Bourse.

He was, however, transferred to a better post, at first as one of the Porte's Commissioners for the Greek frontier delimitation, and subsequently to a still higher one, as the Porte's principal Commissioner for the reforms in Asia (Diarbekir, &c.), in which capacity he gave general satisfaction. The Porte thereupon raised him to the rank of Vali of Siwas, where he also acted in a manner much to his credit, as fully admitted by Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia. From thence he was transferred in the same capacity to Salonica, where he remained but a short time, but during which he rendered himself equally popular. His popular reputation is that of being a just, active and liberal-minded functionary, and his Armenian colleague, Manass Effendi, speaks in very favourable terms of his private character and perfect integrity, in spite of damaging allusions made by various people here on that score.

Colonel Wilson fully confirms Manass Effendi's statement.

The impression made by his appointment on the public at Constantinople, and on some of the foreign Embassies as well as on certain Turkish statesmen is far from being at all favourable, My Austrian colleague spoke of it to me as "une farce et une moquerie dans des moments pareils," whilst a distinguished Turkish statesman was heard to say that he would have felt much less surprised if Aheddin Pasha had been appointed Prime Minister.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, June 10, 1880.

No. 385.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 276.)

My Lord, *Rome, June* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received last evening a note from M. Malvano, Director of the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Italian Ambassador at Berlin, Count de Launay, had been instructed by telegraph to support the line of frontier which includes the cession of Janina and Metzovo to Greece, agreed upon between England and France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 386.

General Sir L. Simmons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived here last evening, having passed through Paris, where I had an interview, accompanied by Lord Lyons, with M. de Freycinet, at which were also present M. de Courcelles, Colonel Morlier, and the Marquis de la Ferronnaye.

Your Lordship will have received a telegram from Lord Lyons with a copy of a memorandum, dated the 12th June, drawn up after some discussion, in which a description is given of the line to be submitted to the Conference by the French Ambassador, and as to which it was proposed that your Lordship should give instructions to Lord Odo Russell to support it.

Lord Lyons, to whom I gave a copy of the memorandum above referred to, having undertaken to send a copy to your Lordship, I have not sent one, but retain the original here for your reference.

Your Lordship will perceive that M. de Freycinet has abandoned the line to the north of, and inclosing Mount Olympus, which he did for the reason that the district included within it is outside the basin of the Salamvria (Peneus), and therefore that its cession to Greece would be a departure from the letter and spirit of the 13th Protocol.

He at the same time gave expression to the high importance he attached to a thorough understanding between France and England on the line of frontier, and to the Ambassadors of the two nations receiving identical instructions with reference thereto.

Some conversation took place before the memorandum was drawn up on the subject of the advisability of extending the boundary of Greece to the north of the Kalamas, but I stated that I had no authority from your Lordship to enter upon the consideration of a new line on that side.

It was evident, however, from the turn of the conversation, that M. de Freycinet had no strong views on the subject, and that with him it was principally a question of which boundary is the most easily defined, and at the same time least likely to generate disputes.

I stated that from accounts I had read of the Kalamas—and in this I especially referred to the memorandum by Signor Gubernatis, transmitted in Sir A. Paget's despatch No. 222 of the 13th May last—I had every reason to believe that throughout a great part of its course the Kalamas is very rapid, and inclosed in deep rocky chasms, which, being impassable, will form an excellent frontier, leaving comparatively small portions of its length where the banks are not precipitous, and a few well-known passing places which will require observation; also that it is a line which, in case of difficulties, is clearly marked by nature, and therefore can be more readily occupied than a line the tracing of which will depend upon the operations of a Boundary Commission.

M. de Freycinet having also concurred in a remark made by Lord Lyons, that it was desirable that England and France should come to an understanding before the meeting of the Conference, the memorandum in question was drawn up.

The description of the boundary in this memorandum throughout from west to east is entirely by natural lines which do not depend upon the accuracy of maps, but can be traced upon the ground by simple geodesical operations.

The French gentlemen who were present at the conversation were perfectly satisfied with the description so given as one calculated to prevent disputes in the operations which will have to be undertaken to define the boundary after it has been agreed upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 387.

Count Károlyi to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

Belgrave Square, le 13 Juin, 1880.

M. le Comte,

DÈS l'année 1878 la Commission Européenne, instituée en vertu de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin pour la délimitation des frontières de la Bulgarie, avait été appelée, aux termes de l'Article XLVI du dit Traité, à fixer le tracé de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja. A la suite d'une divergence d'opinion qui s'était manifestée au sein de cette Commission, notamment en ce qui concerne le choix de l'endroit le plus favorable pour l'emplacement d'un pont sur le Danube, il fut convenu entre les Puissances qu'une Commission Technique procéderait à un nouvel examen de cette question et que le tracé de frontière serait ensuite définitivement fixé par une décision des Cabinets, prise à la majorité des voix.

La Commission Technique a depuis longtemps terminé ses travaux. Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal est donc d'avis que le moment est venu d'entreprendre la solution définitive de la question qui jusqu'ici est restée en suspens à la cause de certaines objections, soulevées contre le tracé proposé par la majorité de la Commission de Délimitation.

Une partie de ces objections portaient sur la nécessité de conserver à la ville de Silistrie quelques terrains avoisinants, réclamés par les habitants de cette ville comme indispensables à leurs besoins économiques et qui selon le projet de la Commission auraient été attribués à la Roumanie. Ces terrains n'étant ni d'une grande étendue ni d'une valeur considérable pour la Roumanie, il nous paraît équitable de tenir compte dans une certaine mesure des réclamations susmentionnées.

Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal, tout en prenant pour base le tracé de frontière de la Commission de Délimitation est donc disposé à consentir pour sa part à une petite modification de ce tracé suivant le projet indiqué ci-après.

La ligne de frontière partant de la rive droite du Danube au point fixé par la majorité de la Commission de Délimitation, à l'est de Silistrie, se dirige en courbe légèrement infléchie vers le sud jusqu'à mi-pente du second contrefort de la hauteur d'Arab-Tabia, puis par angle droit descend cette pente, traverse le ravin pour remonter directement à la ligne de faîte du premier contrefort de la dite hauteur, laissant Arab-Tabia à la Roumanie. Elle continue en direction approximative nord-sud et va rejoindre la route de Karaorman à l'embranchement du sentier qui mène au village d'Almaly. A partir de cet embranchement jusqu'au point de repère No. 5, indiqué dans le cahier descriptif de la Commission de Délimitation, la frontière est formée par le côté est de la route de Karaorman, laquelle appartiendra ainsi dans sa totalité à la Bulgarie. La continuation de la frontière au delà du point 5 ci-dessus mentionné est identique avec le tracé de la Commission de Délimitation.

Ce projet modifié est indiqué sur le croquis ci-joint, se rapportant à la carte (à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{126000}$) dressée en 1878 par les soins de la Commission de Délimitation.

Dans le cas où les Puissances approuveraient ce projet, l'Acte de Délimitation, revêtu de la sanction formelle des Cabinets, serait communiqué aux Gouvernements de Roumanie et de Bulgarie qui auraient à s'entendre entre eux sur l'exécution des travaux de bornage.

En portant ces propositions, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien m'informer le plus tôt possible de l'accueil qu'elles auront rencontré auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) KAROLYI.

Inclosure in No. 387.

Sketch showing Proposal of Austria respecting Dobrudscha Frontier and Arab-Tabia.

No. 388.

Albanian Representatives to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Janina, le 18 Juin*, 1880, 5 P.M.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Londres.

NOUS, Albanais, avons eu l'honneur de nous adresser plus d'une fois aux Grandes Puissances, soit verbalement soit par écrit; nous venons encore cette fois-ci avoir recours à leur justice en les suppliant de vouloir bien avoir pitié de nous et prévenir les dangers innombrables auxquels nous serons exposés par l'annexion aux étrangers même la moindre partie de notre patrie et protéger nos droits sacrés de nationalité et de l'intégrité de notre pays. Nous avons la ferme conviction que notre juste demande sera prise en sérieuse considération, car nous sommes tous prêts à mourir pour sauver nos droits naturels et sacrés que de nous laisser à la merci des étrangers.

Les Représentants de Janina, Arta, Prevesa, Margariti, Paramithia, Philates, Delvino, Argirocastro, Berat, Premedi, Tepeleni, Comelsa, Koritza, Goritza, Avlona, &c. Gendre de famille d'Ali Pacha, Tepelen Hairedin Pacha. Gendre de famille d'Ali Pacha, Neki Mabek Pacha, Moustafa Ahmed Pacha, &c.

No. 389.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19, 5·34 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Janina, June 18, 1880, 8·20 P.M.*

I HAVE arrived at Janina this evening. I find that error in telegram sent from Corfu through Consul there to Consular Agent here had caused it to be supposed that I was Commissioner for the Greek frontier. A demonstrative welcome was given, but I hastened to explain mistake to the Governor-General.

The mistake, however, showed that the people between Philiatis and Janina wish annexation to Greece.

No. 390.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19, 5·18 A.M.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1880, midnight.*

M. DE GIERS remarked to me to-day that the French proposal at Berlin was in excess of what had been suggested by the Treaty, but he did not imply that on that account Russian Government would be adverse to it. Russian Ambassador at Berlin has asked him not to agree to it until he has received his despatch.

No. 391.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19, 5·56 A.M.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1880, midnight.*

M. DE GIERS had learned from the Turkish Ambassador here the answer of the Porte to identic note. He says that he replied conditionally, even in more peremptory terms than those contained in your projected answer. He thinks it probable the Emperor will concur in your proposed reply, and will instruct M. de Novikoff to act in concert with Mr. Goschen on the subject. The Emperor being at Sarsko M. de Giers will not see him till to-morrow morning.

No. 392.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 19, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 152.

M. de Freycinet thinks it would be better not to answer the Turkish note at all, and he is informed that this is also the opinion of the German Government.

He considers it advisable to wait till we can confront the Porte with the solemn decision of all the Powers as settled by the Conference, and to avoid giving the Turks an opportunity of raising a controversy in the meantime.

No. 393.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880, 7·25 P.M.

YOURS No. 55.

See my telegram No. 13 to Green, instructing him to concert with his Austrian colleague, and to reply to Prince of Montenegro in sense indicated in Elliot's telegram No. 78. See also Green's telegram No. 15.

Her Majesty's Government, acting under the advice of the Austrian Government, have given a general but not a formal assurance to the Prince of Montenegro.

No. 394.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 19, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

I AT once communicated your telegram No. 161 to Baron Haymerle, but could not get an immediate answer.

He would not be disposed to assume the responsibility of giving the Prince of Montenegro the guarantee that he asks for the carrying out of the cession of the territories, and he does not consider the Prince entitled to ask for compensation for an arrangement which is known to suit him better than the one it will replace.

His Highness' demands about the fortifications are considered reasonable, and he might be promised to be supported upon them.

No. 395.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880, 6·40 P.M.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 88 and 89.

State to M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government are very glad of the support of Russia to a proposal which we consider to be in accordance with the Berlin Treaty, and a fair compromise between the extreme claims of the two countries.

No. 396.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 6. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880, 7 P.M.

YOUR language at Conference, as reported in your despatch No. 8, Conference, is approved.

No. 397.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram, Secret, of the 18th, you should, if occasion requires, use similar language to that which Austrian Ambassador will be instructed to hold if language attributed to Russian Ambassador respecting departure from Treaty of Berlin is confirmed.

No. 398.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord Odo Russell's telegram No. 7, Conference, and Lord Lyons' telegram No. 39, Her Majesty's Government consider that, as all the Powers seem substantially agreed upon the language to be used in the rejoinder to the Porte, while some are of opinion that it would be better not to rejoin at present, it is advisable to suspend the rejoinder for the present.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

No. 399.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 9. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 19, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 3, Conference.

The Turkish proposals were communicated by the Turkish Ambassador to Prince Hohenlohe as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and by his Highness to the Conference as President.

No. 400.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19, 9·45 P.M.)

(No. 10. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 19, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

AT the meeting of the technical Delegates held to-day the line proposed by France, England, and Italy met with a general approval. The Russian military Delegate alone said that he was instructed to reserve his opinion upon it for the present.

No. 401.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 19, 10 P.M.)

(No. 11. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 19, 1880, 7 P.M.

THE second meeting of the Conference of Ambassadors took place to-day.

The President laid various petitions on the table of the Conference.

The Austrian Ambassador announced the adherence of his Government to the line proposed by France, England, and Italy, which they considered to be strictly in accordance with the principles laid down in the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Russian Ambassador regretted that his Government could not give an unqualified approval to the proposal of the three Powers. He argued at length in favour of the line proposed by the Greek Government, and recommended it with some modifications

* Also to Lord Odo Russell.
† Also to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, Lord Lyons, and the Earl of Dufferin.

to the favourable consideration of the Conference in the name of the Russian Government.

The President proposed that we should take the Russian amendment into our consideration at the third sitting, which we agreed to.

The Italian Ambassador argued in favour of the Anglo-French line

After discussing some further details the Conference adjourned till Monday next.

No. 402.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 88 and 89 of yesterday.

Your Excellency should state to M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government are very glad to obtain the support of Russia to the proposal made by England and France for a settlement of the line of frontier between Turkey and Greece. It is a proposal which Her Majesty's Government consider to be in accordance with the intentions of the Congress of Berlin, and as forming a fair compromise between the extreme claims of the two countries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 403.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 263.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880.

YOU will have learnt from Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 70, Secret, of the 18th instant, that the Russian Plenipotentiary is reported to have stated in Conference that the line of frontier proposed by France and England was more favourable to Greece than that suggested by the Congress of Berlin, but that he agreed to it because it was more in accordance with the natural frontier of Greece, and because if the Berlin arrangements were disregarded in this instance it would become more easy to relax or alter other stipulations made by the Congress.

If the language attributed to M. de Labanoff be confirmed, Baron Haymerle will instruct the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin emphatically to declare that the Austrian Government accepted the proposal because they believed it fairly to carry out the intentions recorded by the Congress, and that he would not have given his consent to it if he had thought it went further.

Should the occasion arise, Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency will use similar language to that which Count Szechenyi is instructed to hold.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 404.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1880.

THE answers of the Powers have been received to the suggestion, which your Excellency was instructed to make on the 17th instant, as to replying to the Turkish note in which that part of the identic note was answered which dealt with the Greek frontier question. As, while all the Powers appear to be substantially agreed upon the language which should be used in the rejoinder, some of them are of opinion that it would be better not to rejoin at present, I have to request you to state to the Government that Her Majesty's Government consider that it will be advisable to suspend for the present making any reply to the Turkish note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 405.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 8·30 A.M.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 19, 1880, 4·40 P.M.

A TELEGRAM was received here yesterday from certain unknown Albanians, supposed to be in Government employ at Constantinople, by the Committee, informing it that the Conference of Berlin is disposed to award Arta, Prevesa, and Janina to Greece, and urging the North Albanians to telegraph to Berlin to protest against such a cession.

Mussulmans are disposed to obey, but the Christians are still hesitating, as they feel it imprudent to mix their interests up with those of the south.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 406.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 8·30 A.M.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 19, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

ON my return here I find that the Mussulmans and Christians have smoothed over their differences, the former reverting to the idea of self-government, and abandoning declaration intended for transmission to the Porte.

To-day the Committee has again exercised its authority by enforcing the payment of a considerable contribution which an Albanian wished to avoid.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 407.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 12. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 20, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

THE text of the Russian amendment is as follows:—

"To adopt the principle of the crests of the mountains for the western part of the delineation, in the same way as that proposed for the eastern, being guided, as far as possible, by the line of the Greek project, leaving St. George's Point on the coast of Epirus to the north of the Lake of Butrinto up to the point where the Greek line rejoins the French line in the neighbourhood of and to the south-east of Paraplava." (Austrian Map.)

This amendment will be discussed to-morrow. Has your Lordship any instructions to give me on the subject?

No. 408.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 6 P.M.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 20, 1880, 3·15 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 155.

I have informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in consequence of opinions expressed by some of the Powers, Her Majesty's Government think it desirable to suspend for the present rejoinder to Porte's reply respecting Greek frontier.

No. 409.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 8 P.M.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 20, 1880, 5 P.M.

MY Secret telegram No. 64.

I learned yesterday, from Director of Political Department of Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that no instructions had been sent to Italian Representative in Montenegro to

urge the Prince to accept the new proposals, no request to do so having been made by Her Majesty's Government.

Asked by me to explain how Minister for Foreign Affairs could have told me a few days since that Italian Representative had been instructed to support the proposals most strongly, and that he had just telegraphed that Prince had accepted in principle, Director replied that he presumed that Minister must have been thinking of instructions sent to Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople in conformity with desire of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, and of a telegram, dated 11th instant, from Agent at Cettinjé, to whom proposals had been communicated for information only, saying that they had been presented by English and Austrian Representatives, and that it seemed probable they would be accepted in principle. Since telegram of 11th, above mentioned, Italian Government have received nothing from Cettinjé.

No. 410.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20, 8 P.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, June 20, 1880, 5 P.M.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has informed Director of Political Department that he has received a despatch from his Government, but without orders to communicate it officially, stating that if Conference adopts line agreed to between England, France, and Italy, Greek Government will undertake to secure and maintain its possession.

No. 411.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 5. Conference. Confidential.)

Berlin, June 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been confidentially told that Prince Bismarck has been informed that a Conference took place at Paris yesterday, at the French Foreign Office, between Her Majesty's Ambassador, General Sir Lintorn Simmons, M. de Freycinet, Baron de Courcel, Colonel Perrier, and the Marquis de la Ferronays, on the subject of the new Greek frontier about to be submitted to the Berlin Conference on the 16th instant, and that a satisfactory agreement was happily arrived at between the French Government and Sir Lintorn Simmons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 412.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 14. Conference. Confidential.)

Berlin, June 18, 1880.

My Lord,

AS the second meeting of the Conference takes place to-morrow, I have thought it as well to ask your Lordship by telegraph whether there is anything Her Majesty's Government wish me to add to what I have already said at the first meeting.

We have reason to hope that the Austrian Government will also adhere to the Anglo-French line supported by Italy.

The Russian Plenipotentiary has not yet received his instructions, and General Bobrickow, his technical assistant, arrives only to-morrow from St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 413.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 16. Conference.)

Berlin, June 18, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of yesterday, I submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the project of reply your Lordship sent me to the answer of the Porte to that part of the identic note which relates to Greece, and I asked his Highness whether he would instruct the German Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with Mr. Goschen as to embodying it in an identic note to the Turkish Government.

Prince Hohenlohe, after consulting Prince Bismarck, tells me that his Highness thinks that some inconvenience might arise if the correspondence on the Greek frontier question were carried on with the Porte by the Powers while their Plenipotentiaries are still in Conference assembled at Berlin, and, as far as the German Government was concerned, Prince Bismarck, therefore, preferred to leave the reply of the Porte unanswered until the work of the Conference was accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 414.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 20. Conference.)

Berlin, June 19, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 9 of the 16th instant, I have given my best support in and out of the Conference to the adoption of the frontier-line agreed upon at Paris on the 12th instant between Lord Lyons, Her Majesty's Ambassador, M. de Freycinet, General Sir Lintorn Simmons, Colonel Perrier, and the Marquis de la Ferronays; and I have every reason to hope that the advantages of that line will be appreciated by the majority of the members of the Greek Frontier Commission in Conference assembled at Berlin.

On the other hand, I have reason to apprehend that its adoption will be rejected by the Porte; and, in consequence, I beg your Lordship will send me early instructions as to whether Her Majesty's Government desire the result of the decision of the Conference to be drawn up in the form of a proposal or advice to the Porte, or whether it is to assume the form of a verdict of the Mediating Powers, based on the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 415.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 505.)

Paris, June 19, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship did me the honour to transmit to me, the day before yesterday, a draft of an answer to be made to the communication addressed by the Porte to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople in reply to that part of their identic note which related to the Greek frontier question.

On the same day I put a copy of the draft into M. de Freycinet's hand; and this morning Baron de Courcel, the Director of the Political Department in the French Foreign Office, came to me to make known to me his Excellency's views with regard to it.

M. de Courcel told me that M. de Freycinet wished to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that it might, perhaps, be better not to make any answer at all to the Turkish communication. This had, he said, been M. de Freycinet's own first impression, and it had been confirmed by information received from the French Ambassador at Berlin, that the German Government were of the same opinion.

It would, M. de Freycinet thought, be advisable to avoid giving the Turks an

opportunity of entering into a controversy while the Conference was sitting at Berlin; and it would, he conceived, be better to put off any communication to the Porte on the subject of the Greek frontier until the Powers could present to it the solemn decision adopted by the Conference on behalf of them all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 416.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by General Menabrea, June 21, 1880.

LES Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, étant convenues de sanctionner au moyen d'un échange de notes entre les Cabinets, les actes élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du susdit Traité, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Londres, d'après les instructions qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement, à l'honneur de remettre à son Excellence le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté la Reine pour les Affaires Etrangères la déclaration authentique ci-jointe, par laquelle son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Italie confirme et sanctionne les actes énumérés dans le susdit document.

Le 19 Juin, 1880.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Note.

LES actes suivants, élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation, instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, savoir:—

1. L'acte en date du 14 Août, 1879, fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

2. L'acte en date du 20 Septembre, 1879, fixant:—(*a*) la frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie; (*b*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédonie); (*c*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie; et enfin,

3. L'acte descriptif de la nouvelle frontière de Serbie;

Ayant été examinés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et trouvés conformes aux dispositions de ce Traité;

Et les Puissances étant convenues de prononcer la sanction de ces actes au moyen d'un échange de notes entre les Cabinets;

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Italie, a l'honneur de déclarer par la présente que le Gouvernement Royal confirme et sanctionne les actes énumérés ci-dessus.

(Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie),
(Signé) CAIROLI.

Rome, le 14 Juin, 1880.

No. 417.

The Albanian League to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

Prevesa, le 20 Juin, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

TOUS les Albanais au nom d'humanité se présentent de nouveau devant la justice des Grandes Puissances priant de vouloir bien prendre en bonne considération leur péril d'annexion de leur patrie aux étrangers et protéger leur nationalité, l'intégrité de leur pays, et l'amélioration de leur état, autrement seront forcés de mourir avec les armes aux mains.

(De Margariti)
(Signé) MAHMOUT.
IBRAHIM.
HUSSEIN.

No. 418.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21, 12·30 A.M.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1880, 3·5 P.M.*

STEPHEN telegraphs number of Commissioners in Aïdos reduced to five for economy. Secretary is ill, but will be appointed if fit to travel, which seems unlikely. Acting Consul-General therefore is endeavouring to get a Czech appointed in his place, who is recommended by Hungarian Secretary.

No. 419.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21, 12·30 A.M.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1880, 3·5 P.M.*

ABEDDIN asked unofficially for advice as to granting Aleko Pasha's request for two months' leave of absence from Philippopoli.

I think we should decline to advise, but if we do advise, recommend that in granting Aleko Pasha should be informed that he would be held equally responsible for order being kept in his absence.

No. 420.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21, 12·30 A.M.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1880, 8 P.M.*

REPRESENTATIVES of Signatory Powers meet to-morrow about Montenegro.

No. 421.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21, 1 P.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1880, 10 A.M.*

SULTAN has not replied as yet to my letter regarding his responsibility, though I hear he means to do so.

I understand that he is again in a depressed state, though not as bad as before, and that he cannot throw off the thought of his responsibility, which he is constantly bringing up in conversation as he used to bring up the subject of plots against his life.

No. 422.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 21, 1880, 2·40 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram, dated yesterday, from Albanian League:—

"Nous apprenons des journaux qu'une Conférence aura lieu à Berlin pour la question des frontières Helléniques. Ainsi que nous avons eu l'honneur d'informer à plusieurs reprises votre auguste Gouvernement Ottoman, les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances, et leurs Représentants à Constantinople, soit verbalement, soit par écrit, le Continent connu sous le nom d'Epire est *ab antiquo* une partie intégrale de l'Albanie, son âme. Un corps ne pouvant exister sans âme notre existence sera illusoire et impossible si même la moindre partie de ce Continent en est détachée. La nouvelle de cette Conférence a fait une vive et douloureuse impression sur les esprits de tous les Albanais braves et courageux; leur excitation est sans bornes; si l'on y prend une décision contraire à leur esprit et à leurs aspirations justes et légitimes ils sont décidés de s'opposer de toute leur force à tous genres d'invasion sur les frontières actuelles. Le malheur, le désastre, et la calamité qui, certes, en suivront seront horribles. Aucun Albanais vivant ne se laissera céder à qui que ce soit. Nous espérons que les Grandes Puissances ne voudront pas dans leur justice bien

connue exposer une population, qui n'aspire qu'à son existence, aux dangers de la plus haute importance. Nous nous sommes déjà adressés à tous les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances; nous avons recours pour dernière fois à la justice de votre Excellence.

No. 423.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 6 A.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 20, 1880, 8 P.M.

TURKISH Commissioners have put off the meeting to-morrow without fixing any other day.

No. 424.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 21, 1880, 5 P.M.

THE Austrian Commissioner and myself saw the Prime Minister this morning at the Porte. We expressed to him very strongly our dissatisfaction at the further delays, and demanded an early meeting and also the official translation. Both he promised for Thursday next. We then told him that if this promise was not kept we should apply for assistance of our respective Ambassadors.

No. 425.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Janina, June* 21, 1880.

THE brother of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has just telegraphed from Constantinople to leaders here to following effect: to inform Powers that the Albanians will not give up the territory; should the Berlin Conference decide against the Albanian League they are at once to take up arms and not leave a Christian alive. This I think to be a mere threat intended for publication and to influence the decision.

No. 426.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 21, 1880.

M. TRICOUPI tells me he has been informed by the Greek Agents at Berlin that Prince Bismarck had told them that if some arrangement was not made by the Greek Government with reference to an old debt due by Greece to Bavaria, and of which nothing has been heard officially here since 1860, Greece could not expect the vote of Germany to be in her favour in the present Conference of Berlin.

Several claims have been made by French, indirectly supported by their Government, on the ground that action of France in regard to the Frontier question entitled them to a favourable settlement.

In the matter of adhesion of Greece to the Decree of Khedive, arguments of the same character were used by M. de Freycinet in his instruction to French Representative here to induce Greece to adhere to it.

No. 427.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880.

WHAT is the position of the signataries of Albanian petition telegraphed to you this day?

No. 428.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 8. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880, 3·5 P.M.

YOURS No. 12, Conference.

What is Simmons' opinion of the Russian proposal?

No. 429.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 69.

Her Majesty's Government understood that the Italian Government were fully informed, and that Italian Agent had been instructed to support his British and Austrian colleagues in the affair of Montenegro.

Her Majesty's Government regret there should have been any misunderstanding. Communicate to the Italian Government the nature of arrangement proposed and the state of the case, and request the support of Italian Agent in the interest of all concerned in arriving at a peaceful solution of the Frontier question.

No. 430.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.**

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

DO you know who are the signataries of the petition from the Albanian League telegraphed to you this day?

No. 431.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 7·45 P.M.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 21, 1880, 5 P.M.

THE language of Russian Ambassador, as recorded in the Protocol of the Conference, being much less accentuated than appeared from Austrian Ambassador at Berlin's telegram mentioned in my telegram No. 79, the Austrian Government do not seem to intend to comment upon it.

No. 432.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 9·10 P.M.)

(No. 83 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 21, 1880, 5 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE is quite satisfied to leave the Porte's answer to the indentic note without a rejoinder.

No. 433.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 9·10 P.M.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 21, 1880.

I HAVE asked M. Kallay whether the Austrian Government would instruct their Consuls in Eastern Roumelia to assist Colonel Wilson in getting information in the manner suggested by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in the telegram repeated to me in your No. 176.

* Also to Consul Reade.

He said that if Her Majesty's Government asked that such instruction should be given, he thought that there would be no objection to doing so, provided it were understood that the Austrian Consuls were not to be quoted as having furnished the information they might have given.

No. 434.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 9·15 P.M.)

(No. 13. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 21, 1880, 7·55 P.M.

AT the third meeting of the Conference to-day the Turkish and Greek proposals were unanimously rejected. The Austrian Ambassador not being yet in possession of the opinion of his technical advisers, asked for the adjournment of the discussion on the Russian amendment until Wednesday next.

The Russian Ambassador confined his observations to a simple recommendation to the Powers of the claims of the inhabitants of the Zagori district, and to the extension of the existing Conventions against brigandage to the districts of Mount Olympus.

Some minor questions were discussed, and the Commission adjourned to Wednesday.

The Technical Commission examined the Russian amendment this [group omitted; ? afternoon], and will report upon it to-night.

No. 435.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pristina, June* 21, 1880, 3·10 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS have been received from Constantinople by Albanian League here to protest energetically at Berlin Conference against the annexation of Arta, Janina, and Prevesa to Greece.

No. 436.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21, 12·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 21, 1880, 12·45 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram 193 A.

I have informed M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government consider it advisable to delay addressing rejoinder to Porte.

No. 437.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 13. Conference.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880.

BEFORE giving you instructions with regard to the Russian amendment, the text of which has reached me in your Excellency's telegram No. 12, Conference, of yesterday, I should wish to have the opinion of General Sir Lintorn Simmons on the line it suggests, and I have accordingly telegraphed to request your Excellency to consult him on the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 438.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 754.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1880.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and we had some conversation upon Turkish affairs. He said that M. Tissot had written to report that his relations with Mr. Goschen were most cordial. I was able to tell Count Montebello that Mr. Goschen had given me exactly the same assurances. Count Montebello told me that Mr. Goschen had stated to M. Tissot that he should send instructions to the British Consuls in Turkey to avoid petty differences with their French colleagues. M. Tissot had, he said, done the same.

Count Montebello then spoke of the proposed inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations in Eastern Roumelia. He said that Mr. Goschen appeared to be of opinion that as there were difficulties in securing identic action on the part of all the Powers, it would be best that England should act alone in the matter. M. de Freycinet was ready to join in this inquiry or not, exactly as appeared most convenient to Her Majesty's Government and to Mr. Goschen.

I told Count Montebello the substance of the Report which we had received from Mr. Goschen on this subject, and with which your Excellency is already acquainted. I added that we had expressed our approval of Mr. Goschen's proposal that Colonel Wilson should conduct the inquiry, acting on behalf of the English and French Governments, and I informed him that I had communicated to the Russian Government Mr. Goschen's intentions in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 439.

Consul Calvert to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, May* 12, 1880.

THE reports regarding the English officers of the gendarmerie which have recently appeared in the Constantinople papers, viewed by the light of the treatment which that struggling institution has hitherto undergone at the hands of the Porte, have led to a general impression at Adrianople that it is the intention of the Turkish Government to do away with the gendarmerie force, as it is at present constituted under the command and supervision of European officers, the one distinctive feature which has caused it to be looked upon with confidence by the people and so materially conduced to the security of the vilayet.

This belief has occasioned much agitation amongst the population of Adrianople, for, apart from the prospect of the loss of an institution which with loyal aid from the Porte would afford a most effectual guarantee for the preservation of public order, the apprehended abandonment of the gendarmerie project is regarded as a symptom of a general unwillingness on the part of the Porte to carry out the promised reforms.

The obstacles which have been systematically placed in the way of the gendarmerie at Adrianople were set forth in my Confidential despatch No. 1 of the 4th March.

I regret to say that since that date many fresh proofs have been given of the jealousy with which the gendarmerie is viewed both by the official classes and by the army. I need not say that Raouf Pasha has invariably done his best to facilitate the difficult task of Colonels Blunt and Whitty. In the draft Budget for this province, which his Excellency lately submitted to the Porte, a sum of 15,000,000 piastres was allotted to the gendarmerie and police; but the amount has been cut down by the Seraskierate to 7,000,000 piastres, which, in the wording of Osman Pasha's despatch, is to be applied to the needs of the "police and zaptiehs." No mention whatever is made of the gendarmerie. But supposing even that "gendarmes" are meant under the term zaptiehs, the sum allotted would allow of the employment of only 1,000 gendarmes, whereas, as your Excellency is aware, the vilayet requires at the very least 3,000.

At present the security of the province is to a great extent under the guardianship of the soldiery, who, even by the admission of the military authorities, make very indifferent substitutes for gendarmes.

Two incidents of recent occurrence will serve to illustrate the relative value for police duties of the two forces.

At a short distance from the town of Ortakeui a peasant was stopped by armed men and robbed of a pair of oxen. The victim of this outrage ran to a guard-house, only a few hundred yards off, and gave notice of the robbery, telling the soldiers that the perpetrators were still close at hand. The soldiers refused to stir, and the robbers escaped with their booty.

In the district of Kirk-Kilissé a Christian, named Apostol, of the village of Hodja Tarla, was the other day robbed under nearly similar circumstances of a pair of oxen. He returned to his village and made complaint to the gendarmes stationed there. The gendarmes, three in number, immediately started in pursuit of the robbers, followed up their track for five hours, and finally came up with them in the forest of Izet Bey. The robbers, on finding themselves pursued, fired on the gendarmes, and the latter, though outnumbered by the outlaws, of whom there were five, returned the fire, and succeeded in killing one of the robbers, when the others took to flight, leaving the stolen cattle in the hands of the gendarmes.

It is scarcely necessary, however, to enlarge on the comparative merits as guardians of public order of the gendarmerie and the military. The object of my present despatch is rather is show that the fears entertained as to the fate of the gendarmerie are justified by the whole conduct towards the force of this present Ministry.

The statements made in the semi-official newspapers to the effect that the European officers of the gendarmerie will, on the expiration of their contracts, be placed on the same footing with regard to the amount and regularity of their pay as other Turkish officers of similar rank, is considered to be a "feeler" put forth to test the effect which such a measure would produce on Her Majesty's new Government.

If carried out this measure would, of course, compel all the English officers of the gendarmerie to resign, and none can be better aware of this than Osman Pasha.

In the despatch determining the expenditure to be bestowed on the police and zaptieh forces, that Minister mentions the commander of those forces by the name of Alaï Bey, a title formerly given to the Chief of the zaptiehs, and which is almost a word of contempt with the army. At the same time, the authority which should attach to the gendarmes has been impaired by an order conveyed to Colonel Blunt by the Acting Military Commandant here, and by which the gendarmerie are forbidden to arrest either military officers or soldiers even when caught in the act of breaking the law.

It would be a misfortune for this province if, by compelling the English officers of the gendarmerie to resign, and by diminishing the authority and prestige of the force, the Porte should succeed in its apparent object of reducing the gendarmerie to what would be in reality the original zaptieh system of bribery, corruption, and oppression.

Notwithstanding all difficulties, the gendarmerie continues to give general satisfaction to the population, and Colonel Blunt receives continual requests for gendarmes to replace the soldiers doing duty as such.

The Vali has frequently expressed to me his entire satisfaction with what Colonel Blunt has accomplished with the small force under his command; and the departure of that officer and his supersession by a Turkish Alaï Bey would inevitably be the signal for the disorganization of the gendarmerie of this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 440.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 279. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, June 5, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of some of the telegrams that were exchanged between the local and central authorities in this province, on the subject of the late military expedition in the Kirdjali district.

It will be interesting to compare this correspondence with that part of the Report of the Commission which will treat of the measures adopted by the Government for the "pacification" of the Kirdjalese.

I beg, however, to point out that the telegram which M. Chrestovitch sent to the Prefect of Haskeui, stating that the militia would "march towards the frontier in order to frighten the revolted villages" has not been included in the copies which I have now obtained.

The telegram in question (which was mentioned in my despatch No. 133 of the 12th March last) was exhibited to me by General Strecker.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 440.

Telegraphic Correspondence of Authorities re Kirdjali Disturbances.

(1.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 33.) 6 *Février*, 1880.

LE Bailli de Kirdjali annonce que des révoltés, qui s'étaient enfuis, Deli Ibrahim et Tabakoglou Suleiman, à la tête de vingt hommes, habitants de quatorze villages rebelles, sont entrés dans le district de Chermen, avoisinant celui de Hermanli, dans le village de Hodjalar, où ils désarmèrent nos gendarmes, et s'apprêtèrent à attaquer la section de gendarmerie à Osman Pachalar.

Kara Youssouf est parti à leur rencontre. Le Bailli du district pense et il craint même que sans l'aide de l'autorité de Moustapha-Pacha, la révolution ne grandisse. Il demande le secours des autorités de Moustapha-Pacha, pour prendre toutes les mesures sur la frontière pour rétablir la tranquillité.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(2.)

Au Général Strecker.

(No. 34.) 6 *Février*, 1880.

Il y a de nouveaux troubles à Kirdjali; je vous supplie de donner les ordres nécessaires pour rétablir la tranquillité sur la frontière.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(3.)

Au Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 36.) 6 *Février*, 1880.

J'ai donné l'ordre au Capitaine Lobanovski de mettre à votre disposition une partie de la drougine que vous trouverez nécessaire. Je vous prie de leur donner des instructions à agir selon votre opinion.

(Signé) Général STRECKER.

(4.)

Au Bailli de Hermanli.

(No. 37.) 7 *Février*, 1880.

Je vous autorise de faire un apaisement d'une manière amicale dans une partie des villages demi-rebelles.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(No. 38.) [Manque.] 7 *Février*, 1880.

(5.)

Au Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 39.) 7 *Février*, 1880.

Le Commandant de votre drougine a reçu l'ordre de mettre à votre disposition et sous votre responsabilité une partie de sa drougine pour tranquilliser les rebelles de Kirdjali (No. 72).

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

(6.)

Au Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 43.) 9 *Février*, 1880.

Consultez-vous avec de Toustain à l'effet d'envoyer une partie de la milice pour tranquilliser les rebelles et avertissez-en le Bailli de Kirdjali (No. 74).

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

(7.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 45.) 12 *Février*, 1880.

Le Commandant de la gendarmerie me fit savoir que ce matin 300 Bachi-Bozouks ont attaqué les gendarmes de Kirdjali à Orktcha Allane, et qu'ils ont blessé l'un d'eux (pas fort); nous avons résolu avec le Colonel de Toustain de tranquilliser complètement les rebelles.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(8.)

Au Bailli de Hermanli.

(No. 46.) 13 *Février*, 1880.

Le Commandant de la gendarmerie du département est parti cette nuit pour Kirdjali avec des instructions. Si nous aurons besoin de ce que les Tures nous aident, c'est le Gouverneur-Général qui prendra les mesures nécessaires à cet effet. Vous ne devez pas entretenir des relations avec Mehined.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(9.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 47.) 13 *Février*, 1880.

Le Bailli de Kirdjali et le Commandant de la gendarmerie de Hermanli soutiennent leur opinion de demander le secours des troupes Turques; il serait utile si les troupes Turques marchaient à la frontière, parce que la plupart des rebelles tiennent du district de Tchirmené.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(10.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 48.) 13 *Février*, 1880.

Selon des dernières nouvelles reçues à l'instant, des rebelles, au nombre d'environ 3,000, viennent sans cesse de la Turquie. Nous pensons avec de Toustain qu'il faut y envoyer une drougine entière; donnez des instructions.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(11.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 51.) 13 *Février*, 1880.

La drougine va contre les Bachi-Bozouks sous le commandement d'un Chef, dans lequel, à en juger, n'ont confiance ni les officiers ni les soldats; je ne réponds pas de ce qui arrivera.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(12.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 53.) 13 *Février*, 1880.

Le Bailli de Kirdjali, qui est venu, soutient l'idée que si les troupes Turques n'arrivent pas à la frontière, la tranquillisation sera trop difficile. Il a amené comme (?) ou témoins quatre des premières personnes de Kirdjali, entre lesquelles se trouve un Député—— (?); s'il arrive quelque chose, je les arrêterai.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(13.)

Au Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 51.) 14 *Février*, 1880.

Réouf Pacha nous fait savoir par la dépêche d'aujourd'hui (14 Février) qu'il envoyait des avant-postes volants à la frontière, et qu'il avait pris des mesures pour que les bandes des rebelles n'augmenterez pas (No. 85).

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

(14.)

Au Gouverneur-Général.

(No. 54.) 14 *Février*, 1880.

Aujourd'hui la 10' Drougine, sous le commandement du Capitain Yacheroff, Commandant de Hermanli, est parti en plein ordre pour chasser les rebelles de Kirdjali. Il aurait été très-bien si Colonel de Toustain avait pris le commandement, ce qu'il désire de tout son cœur.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(15.)

Préfet de Haskeui.

(Expédié le 16, 5·55 P.M. No. 210.)

(No. 55.) 15 *Février*, 1880.

Quelles instructions avez-vous donné à la drougine pour Kirdjali? Qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait jusqu'aujourd'hui; quelles nouvelles avez-vous de Kirdjali?

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

(16.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 56.) 16 *Février*, 1880.

Quant aux instructions je vous les ai envoyées par la poste aujourd'hui. Les troupes n'ont pas encore eu des affaires jusqu'à présent. Aujourd'hui on a amené neuf Tures, accusés de conspiration.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(17.)

M. le Préfet.

(Expédié 18.) 17 *Février*, 1880.
(No. 54.)

Vos instructions envoyées par la poste ne sont pas arrivées. Qu'est-ce que font les rebelles de Kirdjali? où a-t-on attrapé chacun des neuf prisonniers? De Toustain télégraphie que les officiers ont appelé les réserves; pourquoi? Faites savoir tout (No. 94).

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

(18.)

Secrétaire-Général.

Les neuf hommes que le Commandant du gendarmerie de Hermanli m'a envoyés avec son Rapport sous l'escorte des gendarmes, parce qu'ils ont parcouru les villages des cantons de Haskeui et Hermanli pour révolter les Turcs, m'ont dit qu'ils sont allés faire des visites et non pour révolter les Turcs. Du champ de bataille il n'y a pas de nouvelles. Un soldat, qui est venu ici pour prendre du pain, raconta au commencement que lorsque la deuxième compagnie s'avança vers le village rebelle d'Acaslar (en verité Babalar), quelques vieux Turcs sortirent de ce village et vinrent à sa rencontre. Mais quand les soldats entrèrent dans le village on commença à tirer contre eux, et on tua un soldat et en blessa cinq. La compagnie se retira mais peu de temps après elle rentra dans le village, pour rendre aux rebelles les coups de fusil, mais le village était déjà en feu. Quelques autres villages brûlaient de même.

Les officiers de la drougine ont appelé les réserves sans ma recommandation. De Toustain est sur le champ de bataille. Si j'aurai des nouvelles je les communiquerai.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(19.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 59.) 18 *Février*, 1880.

Le dit village insoumis de Babalar, patrie du Chef Deli Ibrahim, a été incendié par les rebelles avant leur retraite. Mort, un grefreiter,* et quatre soldats blessés. Hier on a attendu un combat sérieux près de Kara-boumar et Kara-Mourlalar, sur les bords de l'Arda. Tous les Bachi-Bozouks sont réunis autour de ces villages, et cernés par nos forces. Si le cordon Turc ne les laisse pas passer, il est possible de les attraper. J'ai reçu ces nouvelles de l'officier de la Gendarmerie Nedeff.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(20.)

Préfet de Haskeui.

(Expédié 19, 6·50 P.M.)
(No. 57.) 18 *Février*, 1880.

Général Strecker vient demain auprès de vous. Envoyez sur le champ un cavalier exprès au Capitaine Yacheroff, qu'on arrête les troupes en marche, et qu'elles se tiennent sur la défensive jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

Février 18, 1880.—Ecrivez selon en haut.
(Signé) RAINOFF.

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* Sergeant-major.

(21.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 61.) 19 *Février*, 1880.

En ce moment je reçois une lettre de Toustain, sans date et sans note de place. Tout était bien, et il pense qu'il n'y aura plus de coups de fusil dès à présent. Je n'ai pas d'autres détails.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(22.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 64.) 20 *Février*, 1880.

Je prie d'envoyer cinquante cavaliers de la gendarmerie mobile pour garder les communications contre les dangers de la part des brigands, parce que les nôtres sont à Kirdjali pour le même but.

Strecker est parti là. Rien de nouveau.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(23.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 65.) 20 *Février* 1880.

Strecker dit que la gendarmerie mobile n'a pas de chevaux, et qu'il faut cinquante cavaliers soldats.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(24.)

Bailli Hermanli.

(No. 66.) 20 *Février*, 1880.

Publiez une déclaration que tous ceux qui seront pris les armes à la main près de la frontière de Kirdjali seront fusillés par le Commandant de la Drougine: celui qui se rendra sera puni d'arrêt de un à six ans.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(25.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 67.) 20 *Février*, 1880.

Le Lieutenant Nedeff m'avertit par le Rapport d'aujourd'hui d'Eléler à demi-heure après-midi, que la colonne gauche et droite se sont rencontrés à Akbounar et à Kereler. Les habitants de ces villages rebelles se mirent en fuite sur l'autre côté de l'Arda; il n'y a que des vieillards et de vieilles femmes qui sont restés. Chef d'Etat-Major et d'autres personnes étaient à Akbounar. Les nouvelles sont justes.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(26.)

Au Secrétaire-Général.

(No. 69.) 20 *Février*, 1880.

Colonel de Toustain est arrivé à l'instant et part pour Plovdiv. Les nouvelles d'hier se confirment.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(27.)

Secrétaire-Général.

(Sans date ni numéro.)

Télégramme No. 112 reçu.
Il me faut cinquante gendarmes—75.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

(28.)

Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 67.) 21 *Février*, 1880 (*reçu le* 22 *Février*).

Gendarmerie mobile n'a pas de chevaux; on envoie un demi escadron de la milice. Arrangez-vous pour le moment comme vous le pouvez—108.

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

Note du Préfet prescrivant que la cavalerie sera subordonnée au Commandant de la gendarmerie et surveillera les routes.

(29.)

Préfet de Haskeui.

(No. 68.) 22 *Février*, 1880.

Voulez-vous quinze ou cinquante cavaliers? On ne peut comprendre votre calembour télégraphique; télégraphiez.

(Signé) CHRESTOVITCH.

NOTE.—J'ai demandé cinquante.

(Signé) RAINOFF.

No. 441.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, June 9*, 1880.

I INCLOSE a copy of the note addressed to the Turkish Commissioners by the Commissioners of the other European Powers on Monday, the 7th instant, and referred to in my telegram No. 11.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 441.

Note addressed to the Turkish Commissioners on the East Roumelian Commission.

LES Soussignés, Délégués d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, à la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale, ayant été informé que M. le Délégué de Turquie avait annoncé que la première réunion de la Commission aurait lieu Samedi prochain, acceptent avec plaisir cette date et croient pouvoir s'attendre à ce que son Excellence Assim Pacha voudra bien leur fixer dans le plus bref délai l'heure et l'endroit de la réunion.

Buyukdéré, le 7 Juin, 1880.

No. 442.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, June 9*, 1880.

AT the informal meeting of the Commissioners held here on the 7th June, a long discussion took place as to the meaning of Articles XIX, LXXXII, and LXXXIII, which determine the financial rights of the General Assembly of the vilayet.

The Articles are as follows:—

"Article XIX. A l'exception des droits de douane, de la taxe des sels, et des impôts sur les tabacs, le dixième des autres revenus généraux de chaque vilayet, après prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale, sera abandonné à ce vilayet pour la construction et la réparation des routes, ponts, et échelles, le creusement des canaux, le dessèchement des marais, et en général pour les travaux d'utilité publique et la propagation de l'instruction. Le reste sera affecté au budget de la guerre, et aux autres dépenses générales de l'Administration Centrale. Cependant, les revenus des vakoufs n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés."

"Article LXXXII. Le Vali présentera au Conseil, au commencement de chaque session annuelle, le projet de Budget de l'année suivante. En même temps que ce projet de Budget, le compte de l'année précédente sera présenté au Conseil par le Vali.

"Le Conseil Général examine le côté pécuniaire du Budget et du compte annuel. Le Vali assistera aux délibérations du Conseil, quand il le voudra; et lorsqu'il ne s'y trouve pas en personne, il pourra déléguer aux délibérations le fonctionnaire du vilayet qu'il voudra.

"Article LXXXIII. Le Conseil, en examinant le projet de Budget et y trouvant des parties sur lesquelles il y aurait à faire des réductions, exprimera les motifs sur lesquels est basée sa décision à ce sujet, et indiquera en même temps l'Article sur lequel portera la réduction et le mode de réduction à adopter."

A very great difference of opinion at starting existed among the Commissioners. The two points on which the discussion turned were:—

1. Will the "frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale," mentioned in Article XIX, appear on the estimates to be presented to the Assembly under Article LXXXII? and, if so, what items will be included under this head?

2. What is meant by "revenus généraux de chaque vilayet?"

It was eventually decided, after M. Kosjek had made a fresh translation of Article XIX from the Turkish original, that the "frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale" were intended to be included in the estimates, but that it was impossible to say what items were included in those words, *e.g.*, it did not appear whether the salaries of the Governor-General and other high officials who are to be appointed by the Porte came within them or not. The Commissioners also agreed that, if Article XIX were presented to them in its present shape, it would have to be recast in order to make it clear that the "frais de l'Administration Locale" were to be deducted from the gross provincial revenue before the surplus, to be subsequently divided, was ascertained, and not from the tenth of the surplus allotted to the province for its own special needs. It was further agreed that Articles LXXXII and LXXXIII, not being sufficiently clear in regard to the extent of the powers of the Assembly over the Budget, would probably have to be recast.

In regard to the second subject of discussion, it was decided that further information was necessary on such points, as, for example, whether the revenue arising from the posts and telegraphs, the spirit and silk duties, the "tapou" (succession duty), and from various miscellaneous items, was included or not in the term "revenus généraux du vilayet." Most of these are generally looked upon as revenues "centrally administered," and are distinguished as such, together with the customs and the salt and tobacco monopolies, from the revenues "provincially administered."*

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

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* See Mr. E. F. Harrison's Report, February 17, 1880, Schedules 15 and 16, pages 46 and 47.

No. 443.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 21.)

Buyukdéré, June 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that his Excellency Musurus Pasha, in a conversation I had the honour to have with him on the 8th instant, asserted that the Eastern Roumelian Commission had, under Article XXIII, no right to "deliberate" on the "Projet de Loi" which would be submitted to them by the Turkish Commissioner; that by the term "deliberate" he meant amending the Statute, and, indeed, anything beyond the expression of general approval or disapproval. He went on to say that, at his request, your Lordship had omitted the word "deliberate" from my instructions, and had thereby shown your agreement with the above view. He added that he believed the Turkish Commissioners had received instructions in conformity with the above notions.

I replied to his Excellency that I could not admit the justice of his views, and that I could still less admit the view he had put forward of your Lordship's action. I feel it the more incumbent on me to mention these facts, as I fear there is little doubt that his Excellency, by the language he has elsewhere held in regard to the views of your Lordship and Mr. Gladstone, has been an obstacle in the path of Mr. Goschen and myself; and also because the language of his Excellency tallies exactly with that recently held by Saïd Pasha to M. Vernoni, the Italian Commissioner. It is, however, possible that the recent change of Ministry may cause a more conciliatory attitude to be adopted by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 444.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 22.)

Buyukdéré, June 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been attempting to obtain some information as to the distribution and population of the vilayets of European Turkey, as I find that some of the statements contained in the Confidential papers (3655 and 3687) are defective; the administrative boundaries of the country having been altered in many important respects since those papers were prepared. Portions of the Vilayets of Kossovo, or Prisrend, and of Salonica have been recently cut off, and with certain Albanian districts, extending in one direction as far as El-basan, have been formed into the Vilayet of Monastir, which, however, does not correspond exactly with the old Sandjak of Monastir, formerly part of the Vilayet of Salonica. The portion cut off from Kossovo includes the Prisrend district, and the name Kossovo is now alone given to the remains of the old vilayet. Owing to this arrangement a very heterogeneous new vilayet has been composed, including portions of all the races and religions which are in conflict in Western Turkey. No arrangement could, indeed, have entirely avoided this result, but the inherent difficulties of the situation have been deliberately increased by the particular distribution adopted.

The Sandjak of Uskub (Skopia) had been previously detached from the Vilayet of Salonica and added to that of Kossovo, in which it would appear to have once already been, in about 1868-69. As this sandjak is principally inhabited by Bulgarians and Turks, I must ask that my observations relating to the Albanian character of Vilayet of Kossovo should be considered as not applying to the portion of it included in this sandjak.

I may observe that on the map "Carte de Bulgarie, Traqui, et Macédoine, leurs populations et religions, 1877," which accompanies the above papers (3655, 3687), this alteration is not indicated. It would appear to have been made early in 1878, being noticed in an extract from the "Turquie" in No. 3655, inclosed in a despatch from Sir Henry Layard of the 18th June of that year.

The male adult population of the three Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Kossovo in their present boundaries would appear to be as follows:—

Salonica	470,424
Monastir	371,397
Kossovo	173,569

which, on the basis of multiplying by two and-a-half, would give the total population as follows:—

Salonica	1,176,060
Monastir	928,492
Kossovo	433,897

The population of the district of Novi-Bazar, formerly in Bosnia, is not included in the above calculation, as although still civilly administered by the Turkish authorities as part of the Vilayet of Kossovo, it is practically under Austro-Hungarian control.

The population of the Vilayet of Adrianople may be put at a little under 800,000.

In preparing these figures I have received much valuable information and assistance from Colonel Synge. Inclosed in this despatch is a Table prepared by him, based upon official and other Returns, showing the distribution of the population of Macedonia in detail, according to religious belief in each caza. In regard to the position assigned to the Bulgarians, I may call special attention to the fact mentioned by him, that only those who have actually "transferred" their religious allegiance to the Exarch are placed in column 6, and that the Table gives the Sandjak of Monastir as still forming part of the Vilayet of Salonica, according to the old arrangement.

The present position of the district of Larissa (Thessaly) is peculiar. It is under an independent Mutessarif, who, however, is still in some administrative questions the subordinate of the Vali of Scutari, while for judicial purposes Larissa is dependent on Salonica. On the other hand, for military purposes, Salonica is dependent on Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 444.

MALE Population of Macedonia.

SANDJAK OF SALONICA.

Cazas.	(A.) Mussulmans.	(B.) Recognizing Greek Patriarch: Greeks.	Bulgars.	Vlachs.	Albanians.	(C.) Bulgarian Exarch. Bulgars.	(D.) Jews.	Observations.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	
Salonica	19,926	24,071	1,235	..	..	..	25,000	Jewish population approximate, official returns greatly understates it.
Doiran	5,614	..	3,410*	..	..	..	95	* Christian population is more probably about 11,000, as in ecclesiastical returns.
Avret Hissar	15,813	2,156	11,782*	200	..	..	..	* There are about 300 Roman Catholic families here.
Tikvesh	9,120	..	9,735	..	..	..	..	Tikvesh district contains 25 Greek schools.
Kesiprenli Velissa ..	7,765	..	..	1,000	..	15,975	..	
Vodena	9,066	4,755	3,812	..	..	..	..	Great exertions made to Hellenize population; 38 schools where Greek is taught.
Verdar Yenidje	10,449	8,700	1,500	552	..	..	61	
Karaferia (Veria) ..	2,787	8,495	1,291	2,000	..	..	119	
Strounitza	7,774	1,372	10,314	..	..	..	168	
Cassandra	3,322	14,385	..	..	..	..	..	Christian population understated probably by 5,000, all Greek.
Total	95,966	61,434	43,099	4,462	..	15,975	25,473	

SANDJAK OF MONASTIR.

Cazas.	(A.) Musulmans.	(B.) Recognizing Greek Patriarch. Greeks.	Bulgars.	Vlachs.	Albanians.	(C.) Bulgarian Exarch. Bulgars.	(D.) Jews.	Observations.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	
Monastir	19,975	12,773	12,773	12,774	...	..	1,279	Christian population about equally divided.
Resna	1,431	500	1,115	5,785	..	..	..	
Presipi	1,112	..	571	2,757	..	..	..	
Perlipi	6,067	..	3,145	2,870	..	10,010	..	
Moriehovo	..	..	..	4,025	..	..	..	
Kruschewo	5,565	..	6,455	3,227	..	..	..	
Ochrida and Struga ..	6,469	..	..	2,314	..	11,573	..	
Florina	3,827	450	12,741*	1,210	..	1,115	..	* Bulgarian population uncertain in their fidelity to Patriarch.
Egri-Budschuk	3,368	3,307	..	..	..	..	..	
Tchaschemitza	3,343	2,691	..	..	..	..	..	
Djuma (Kuliar)	12,655	780	1,978	..	..	..	..	Some few Vlachs and Greeks included; but no returns obtainable.
Selvidje (Servia)	1,039	4,094	..	..	..	..	..	
Stácowa	8,691	..	..	..	6,462	..	..	
Gyoriza (Koryza) ..	6,076	..	455	120	7,725	..	..	
Opar	1,775	500	..	2,029	2,030	..	..	
Bschilista	5,689	100	..	..	4,311	..	..	
Kesrie (Castoria) ..	5,405	18,500	2,500	1,200	..	..	382	
Chrupista	2,990	4,565	..	4,220	..	..	..	
Anaselitza	3,700	15,122	..	..	..	..	..	
Colonia	4,635	..	..	..	4,495	..	..	
Total	91,905	63,292	42,034	42,831	25,043	23,598	1,661	

SANDJAK OF SERRES.

Serres	8,955	10,878	5,000	..	..	..	988	
Demir Hissar	7,457	1,075	6,106	2,859	..	1,762	..	
Melnik	3,909	4,464	3,360	..	..	2,791	..	
Zichna	3,052	7,037	3,803*	..	..	950	..	* 2,000 Turkish-speaking Christians included amongst these.
Petritch	4,081	725	2,800	..	..	1,514	..	
Nevrekop	19,715	500	6,984	..	..	9,204	..	
Razlog	4,563	..	..	..	..	9,214	..	
Nigrita	2,803	7,141	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	54,436	31,820	28,053	2,859	...	25,335	988	

SANDJAK OF DRAMA.

Drama	11,791	1,950	1,155	..	..	1,585	..	
Cavalla	5,907	362	..	..	..	..	..	
Yenidje Karasu	9,533	1,925	406	..	..	107	..	
Exidje (Xanthe)	867	2,738	1,115	..	..	..	..	
Pravischta	5,739	3,340	..	..	..	..	..	
Daridere	20,139	..	162	..	..	152	..	
Saryschaban	7,930	97	..	..	..	..	..	
Yenitsch	3,228	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	65,134	10,416	2,838	...	..	2,134	..	

MACEDONIA.

Sandjaks.	(A.) Musulmans.	(B.) Recognizing Greek Patriarch. Greeks.	Bulgars.	Vlachs.	Albanians.	(C.) Bulgarian Exarch. Bulgars.	(D.) Jews.	Observations.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	
Salonica	95,960	61,434	43,009	4,462	..	15,979	25,473	The Musulman population in each sandjak has been considerably increased by refugees.
Monastir	94,905	63,292	42,034	42,831	25,043	23,598	1,661	
Serres	54,436	31,820	28,053	2,859	..	25,335	988	
Drama	65,134	10,416	2,838	..	..	2,134	..	
Grand totals ..	310,441	166,964	116,024	50,152	25,043	67,046	28,122	

(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 445.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, June* 12, 1880.

ON the 4th June a deputation of Macedonian Bulgarians inhabiting Constantinople called on me in order to present a petition in regard to the manner in which the Local Commission at Salonica had been constituted.

I inclose a copy of the "Stamboul," which gives a substantially accurate account of the observations addressed by me to the deputation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 445.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of June 7, 1880.

UNE DÉPUTATION BULGARE ET LORD E. FITZMAURICE.—Une députation de Notables Bulgares de Macédoine a été reçue Vendredi passé à Buyukdéré par Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Délégué Britannique de la Commission Internationale de Roumélie Orientale. La députation a été introduite par M. Karandjuloff.

Après avoir entendu les observations de ses visiteurs, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice a dit que leur pétition serait l'objet de sa plus sérieuse attention. Il a écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les vues exprimées par la députation sur les questions qu'elle lui a soumises, et spécialement celles concernant la limite de durée des pouvoirs du Gouverneur-Général, la composition des Tribunaux, le Budget de la province, et la perception des impôts. Après quelques observations sur des questions de détail, Lord Edmond a continué à peu près ainsi :—

"Avant de nous séparer, je dois faire ressortir devant vous le grand préjudice que votre cause subit par suite des excès qui ont été récemment commis en Bulgarie et Roumélie Orientale contre la population Turque. Je fais allusion surtout à ce qui a eu lieu à Kirdjali et près d'Aïdos. Je suis sûr que vous apprécierez les motifs qui m'amènent à vous parler sur ce sujet. Vous savez le grand intérêt qu'on a témoigné en Angleterre à la population Bulgare, et dont le Premier Ministre, Mr. Gladstone, a surtout donné des preuves. Si ces excès sont répétés, on dira qu'il est inutile de donner des institutions libres à la population Bulgare de Macédoine, vu l'abus qu'on en fait en Roumélie Orientale et en Bulgarie. C'est pourquoi je désire que vous exerciez votre influence sur vos amis à ce propos. Je vous le conseille dans votre propre intérêt. Après les victimes immédiates de ces excès vous en êtes vous-mêmes le plus gravement atteintes. Mais j'en suis sûr, je puis aussi faire appel à des motifs plus élevés—l'amour de la justice, de la liberté et de l'humanité, lequel, je le crois, inspire votre nation dans son ensemble. Nous autres, en Angleterre, croyons aux institutions libres. Nous avons vu ce qu'elles ont fait pour l'Italie et la Hongrie. Nous croyons que des institutions libres procureront les mêmes résultats à la Principauté de Bulgarie. Mais le premier devoir d'un Gouvernement est de protéger la vie et de garantir la propriété.

"Je vous conseille, donc, d'insister auprès de vos amis au delà de la frontière sur la nécessité de faire leur devoir, et ainsi soyez sûrs que vous aiderez la Commission Internationale à donner réalité à vos vœux. Depuis la guerre, la population de la Macédoine est beaucoup plus mêlée que jamais par suite de l'émigration des Musulmans vers le sud, et si nous ne pourrons trouver un *modus vivendi* pour toutes ces races et religions, il y aura une lutte horrible. La tâche de la Commission est très-difficile. La population Bulgare pourra être sûre que ces intérêts ne seront pas oubliés par moi, mais je prie cette partie de la population qui habite la Principauté et la Roumélie Orientale de ne pas augmenter la difficulté de notre tâche. Il n'y a point de raison qui puisse empêcher les Bulgares, les Turcs, les Grecs de vivre ensemble en paix."

Lord Edmond a terminé en affirmant de nouveau le plaisir qu'il éprouvait à faire la connaissance des membres de la députation et en écoutant leurs très-intéressantes observations sur la situation de la Macédoine.

No. 446.

Mr. Stephen, No. 289, June 11, 1880, containing the Report of the Kirdjali Commission, was published as "Turkey No. 10 (1880)."

No. 447.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 42.) *Therapia, June 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 32, dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that Sir Henry Layard, before his departure, was good enough to discuss with me all the claims mentioned by your Lordship, and to explain to me precisely what had been done.

Some of the questions have been settled since.

I have informed your Lordship that the concession for the quays at Constantinople has, for the present, fallen to the ground.

An International Commission to inquire into the management of the Safety Boat and Floating Light Services in the Black Sea has been named, and Mr. Wrench has been appointed to represent British interests upon it. I have also had the opportunity of discussing this matter in other quarters, and I trust progress will be made with it.

I shall address to your Lordship a separate despatch shortly, which will deal with the present situation of the Tigris and Euphrates navigation.

The proposed International Commission for the Collas Lighthouse Concession is not yet called together, but I am perfectly aware of the very important questions involved. With regard to this and many other subjects the change of Government may prove very advantageous. By the universal consent of the various Embassies and Legations here it had been almost impossible to transact business with Said Pasha and Sawas Pasha. As little progress could be made in the important international questions at present pending with regard to trade and commerce as with regard to political questions, and consequently there is a great accumulation of subjects urgently requiring settlement.

I do not, however, conceive that it would be useful to bring forward this question during the first few days of the present Administration. The new Ministers have their hands so full that they would only relegate these questions to others, who have previously delayed them or otherwise thwarted their settlement. But, in concert with my colleagues, I will watch for the best opportunity.

The two most pressing matters relating to commerce are the Smyrna Quay difficulty and the Collas Lighthouse Concession. In both the peculiar position of French subjects renders an entire accord between all the Powers somewhat difficult; but I shall use every effort with M. Tissot to prevent any antagonistic feeling springing up. On the other hand, the question being international, I shall endeavour to work with as many of my colleagues as possible. Several of them are coming to this Embassy to-day to determine on the best course to pursue in the case of the Smyrna quays. The Porte has, thus far, not answered the protests of the Austrian and Italian Governments at all.

I have again seen the legal adviser of the Porte on this business. He endeavoured to persuade me to act apart from the other Powers, but I declined to do so.

I think it may be advisable to address a note to the Porte very shortly, summing up all the commercial cases to which the Porte has paid no attention, or where there have been breaches of faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 448.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 43. Confidential.) *Therapia, June 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

I FORWARD herewith, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying memorandum, with which I have been furnished by a person who has exceptional

opportunities for forming an opinion, criticizing the recent changes which have been made in the Ottoman Ministry.

I am disposed to think, from the information which has reached me from other quarters, that the remarks contained in this memorandum very fairly represent the actual situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 448.

Extract from Memorandum.

THE Sultan, being convinced that the maintenance in office of Said Pasha and Sawas Pasha had become impossible on account of the changed attitude of the Great Powers towards the Porte, decided to remove these Ministers from power, seeing that they no longer inspired confidence in Europe, while His Majesty retained the rest of his Councillors in their respective offices.

His Majesty summoned to the Palace Mahmoud Nedim Pasha in order to offer him the post of Prime Minister. His Highness declined the offer, and earnestly requested the Sultan to relieve him from it, without indicating the reasons which obliged him to decline accepting office for the present.

After having tried in vain to persuade his Minister of the Interior, His Majesty issued the Imperial Hatt appointing Kadri Pasha as Prime Minister, and Abeddin Pasha as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I am in a position to state to your Excellency that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha would accept without difficulty the Premiership, with all the responsibilities attaching thereto, the moment he was assured that the Sultan and his household would abstain from active interference in the affairs of the State, the nomination of officials, and, in a word, in all questions which ought to be exclusively discussed and decided upon the responsibilty of the Sublime Porte.

Whilst recognizing the individual abilities of Kadri Pasha and Abeddin Pasha, I cannot omit stating to your Excellency that they are not endowed with all the qualities needful to cope advantageously with the requirements of a situation, the gravity of which cannot escape the perspicacity of your Excellency.

The two Ministers above named belong to the school of Ottoman officials which has the pretension of being able to advance without the aid of the counsel and advice of the Powers. Experience will not be long in proving the justice of this assertion.

In my opinion, therefore, the Ministerial changes which have just been effected are far from satisfying the exigencies of a delicate situation and one fruitful in perils.

No. 449.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 45.) *Therapia, June 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the identic note which was handed to the Porte on Saturday, the 12th instant. I also inclose, for your Lordship's convenience, an English translation, by which it will appear how closely the phraseology of your Lordship's Circular note of the 4th instant, as modified by your Lordship's further instructions, has been followed. The preamble and the conclusion were drafted by M. Tissot, and were unanimously adopted. There was little difference of opinion throughout. The Russian Ambassador carried a few "accentuated" phrases about Montenegro which appeared perfectly harmless and were within the general sense of the Circular. I have informed your Lordship, by telegraph, that no difficulties occurred, and I am happy to add that very great cordiality prevails amongst all the Representatives of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 449.

Mr. Goschen to Abeddin Pasha.

Thérapia, le 11 Juin, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

LES retards apportés à l'exécution de certaines dispositions du Traité de Berlin ont motivé, de la part des Puissances Signataires de cet acte, un échange de vues à la suite duquel elles ont reconnu qu'il était d'un intérêt Européen de mettre un terme à ces retards, et admis que l'union de leurs efforts était pour elles le plus sûr moyen d'arriver aux résultats que l'acte international du 13 Juillet, 1878, a eu pour but d'assurer. Pénétré de cette double nécessité, et complétement d'accord avec les Cabinets de Berlin, de Vienne, de Paris, de Rome, et de St. Pétersbourg, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique m'a chargé de faire connaître à votre Excellence le point de vue auquel il envisage les différentes questions soulevées par l'inexécution d'un certain nombre des clauses du Traité de Berlin.

En ce qui concerne la rectification des frontières de la Turquie et de la Grèce, la Porte a reçu il y a quelque temps une proposition faite par le Marquis de Salisbury, et approuvée par les Puissances, d'après laquelle une Commission Internationale devait se rendre dans les provinces frontières pour déterminer cette rectification.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'étant borné à signaler les difficultés que pourrait rencontrer dans l'exécution la combinaison à laquelle il était invité à souscrire, sans donner d'ailleurs aucune réponse définitive, les Puissances Médiatrices se sont trouvées dans l'obligation de considérer ce silence comme un refus et ont dû par suite aviser aux moyens de donner, à bref délai, à l'affaire de la rectification des frontières Turco-Grecques, la solution qu'on avait inutilement essayé de concerter avec la Sublime Porte, et que réclame l'intérêt de la Turquie aussi bien que celui de la Grèce.

Elles ont décidé, en conséquence, que leurs Représentants près Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne se réuniraient en Conférence à Berlin le 16 de ce mois, pour déterminer, à la majorité des voix, et avec l'assistance d'officiers possédant des connaissances spéciales, la ligne de frontière qu'il convient d'adopter. Il est également convenu entre elles que dès qu'une décision aura été prise par la Conférence une Commission pourra se transporter sur le terrain pour régler les questions de détail qui se rattachent au tracé général.

Les Puissances constatent, d'un autre côté, que l'état de choses créé par la question de la frontière Monténégrine réclame une attention plus grande encore et exige une urgente solution.

Les autorités Ottomanes n'ont pas mis en exécution la Convention récemment intervenue entre la Porte et le Monténégro, et à laquelle des Puissances avaient donné leur adhésion dans le Protocole du 18 Avril, 1880. Elles ont compromis la combinaison de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan en permettant aux Albanais d'occuper certaines positions adjugées au Monténégro. Une collision peut se produire d'un moment à l'autre entre les troupes Monténégrines et les masses Albanaises qui leur font face.

Les Puissances se voient donc dans la nécessité absolue d'inviter le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan à faire connaître dans les termes les plus explicites ses intentions en ce qui concerne la frontière Monténégrine et à mettre immédiatement en exécution pratique l'arrangement intervenu entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro. Les Puissances font d'avance retomber sur la Sublime Porte la responsabilité des graves conséquences que pourraient entraîner de plus longs retards apportés à la satisfaction des droits acquis à cette Principauté.

L'attention des Puissances a dû se fixer enfin sur un troisième point.

Par l'Article LXI du Traité du 13 Juillet, 1878, la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à exécuter, sans plus de délais, les améliorations et les réformes administratives que réclament les intérêts locaux dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens à garantir la sécurité de ces populations contre les agressions et les violences des Circassiens et des Kurdes et à faire connaître périodiquement les mesures prises à cet effet, aux Puissances chargées d'en surveiller l'application.

Autant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en est informé, la Sublime Porte n'a rien fait pour donner connaissance des mesures qu'elle aurait pu prendre pour se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Aucune disposition n'a été prise par elle relativement à la surveillance que doivent exercer les Puissances.

Tous les rapports émanant des Agents des Puissances prouvent que la situation de

ces provinces est déplorable, et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne saurait admettre que les clauses du Traité de Berlin relatives à l'amélioration de cet état de choses restent plus longtemps à l'état de lettre-morte. Convaincu, d'ailleurs, que l'action commune et incessante des Puissances peut seule amener la Sublime Porte à s'acquitter des devoirs qui lui incombent à cet égard, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en tant que Signataire du Traité de Berlin se voit dans l'obligation de réclamer l'entière et immédiate exécution de l'Article LXI de cet acte, et d'inviter le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan à exposer explicitement les mesures qu'il a prises pour se conformer aux dispositions de ce même acte.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence je me fais un devoir d'appeler sa plus sérieuse attention sur la gravité des responsabilités que ferait accourir à la Sublime Porte tout nouveau retard apporté à l'exécution des mesures que les Puissances s'accordent à considérer comme imposées par l'intérêt de l'Empire Ottoman aussi bien que par celui de l'Europe.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) G. J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 449.

Mr. Goschen to Abeddin Pasha.

Therapia, June 11, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

THE delay which has occurred in the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin has led to an interchange of views between the Signatory Powers. The result of this step has been the recognition on their part that it is an object of European interest that an end should be put to this delay, and the conclusion that the union of their efforts would be the surest means of securing the objects aimed at by the Act of the 13th July, 1878.

Convinced of this twofold necessity, and in complete agreement with the Cabinets of Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Rome, and St. Petersburgh, Her Majesty's Government have instructed me to acquaint your Excellency with the point of view from which they look at the various questions raised by the non-execution of certain clauses of the Treaty of Berlin.

As regards the rectification of the Turco-Greek boundary, the Porte has for some time had before it a proposal made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had received the assent of the other Powers, that an International Commission should proceed to the frontier provinces to determine this rectification.

Although the Government of the Sultan has pointed out the difficulty which might be encountered by such a Commission in the execution of the arrangement to which they were asked to agree, they have not yet given a definite reply. The Mediating Powers have consequently found themselves in the necessity of treating this silence as a refusal, and they have been obliged, as the next step, to consider the means by which the solution of the Greco-Turkish Frontier question—a solution which the Powers had in vain tried to arrive at in concert with the Sublime Porte, and which the interests both of Turkey and of Greece require—might now be secured as speedily as possible.

They have accordingly decided that their Representatives at the Court of His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, should meet in Conference at Berlin on the 16th instant, in order to decide by a majority of votes, and with the assistance of officers possessed of the necessary technical knowledge, the line of frontier it will be best to adopt.

They have likewise agreed that when a decision shall have been come to by the Conference, a Commission may proceed to the frontier to settle the questions of detail arising out of the general plan.

The state of things created in another quarter by the question of the Montenegrin frontier requires, in the opinion of the Powers, more pressing attention and an immediate solution.

The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the engagement entered into between the Porte and Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, 1880. They have compromised the agreement accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions assigned to the Montenegrins, and a collision may at any time occur between the Montenegrins and the Albanian forces opposed to them.

The Powers, therefore, consider themselves absolutely bound to request the Government of His Imperial Majesty to state in the most explicit terms what their intentions are as regards the Montenegrin frontier, and to put into immediate execution the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro. The Powers hold the Sublime Porte responsible in advance for the grave consequences that might be produced by a further delay in giving satisfaction to the rights acquired by the Principality.

In conclusion, the attention of the Powers has been drawn to a third point.

By the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878, the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and administrative reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the attacks and the violence of the Circassians and Kurds, and periodically to make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Sublime Porte to make known the steps which it may have taken in order to meet the stipulations of Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin; nor have any measures been adopted by the Porte for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers.

All the Reports furnished by the Agents of the Powers show that the state of these provinces is deplorable, and Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin relating to the amelioration of this state of things should remain any longer a dead letter. They are convinced that only united and incessant pressure on their part will induce the Sublime Porte to fulfil its duties in this respect. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, as one of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, must demand the complete and immediate execution of Article LXI of that Treaty, and call upon the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to state explicitly what the steps are which they have taken in order to fulfil the provisions of this Article.

In bringing these views to the knowledge of your Excellency, I consider it my duty to call your most serious attention to the grave responsibility the Porte would incur by any fresh delay in the execution of the measures which the Powers agree in considering to be essential to the interests of the Ottoman Empire and of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

No. 450.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 46.)
Therapia, June 15, 1880.

My Lord,

AT the last moment before the messenger leaves, I received the answer of the Porte to the identic note. I inclose a copy. The Representatives of the Signatory Powers will meet to-morrow, but I presume we shall not be able to act without instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 450.

Abedin Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Constantinople, le 14 Juin, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 11 Juin concernant certaines dispositions du Traité de Berlin.

Votre Excellence me permettra de l'entretenir d'abord et seulement de la première partie de cette note relative à la question de la rectification des frontières Turco-Grecques qui exige une réponse immédiate par suite de l'intention des Puissances de faire tenir le 16 de ce mois par leur Représentant à Berlin une Conférence ayant pour objet cette rectification. Je ne tarderai pas d'ailleurs à communiquer à votre Excellence la réponse de la Sublime Porte aux deux autres questions dont la note de votre Excellence entretient également le Gouvernement Impérial.

La proposition de son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury concernant l'envoi sur les lieux d'une Commission Internationale pour déterminer la rectification des frontières a eu

effet donné lieu à de sérieuses objections de la part de la Sublime Porte au point de vue du caractère dont cette Commission devait être revêtue et du principe même de son mandat. Si la Sublime Porte n'a point donné jusqu'à présent une réponse définitive, c'est qu'elle attendait et espérait que ces objections seraient prises en considération.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir reconnu et sans doute fait aussi reconnaître par l'Europe l'impossibilité d'une entente directe entre la Turquie et la Grèce, par le fait de cette Puissance et par suite de ses exigences ne pouvait avoir et n'avait réellement d'autre désir que celui de voir se produire la médiation prévue de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin.

Cette médiation que les Puissances se sont réservé d'offrir aux deux parties pour faciliter les négociations, nous continuons à l'appeler de tous nos vœux, parce qu'elle nous semble seule propre à amener la prompte solution de cette question.

Les Puissances sont naturellement seules juges de la manière dont elles procéderont à la médiation qu'elles veulent offrir aux deux Etats, et la Sublime Porte n'aurait rien à objecter à la Conférence projetée si les informations fournies à ce sujet par la note de votre Excellence ne semblerait indiquer que les Représentants des Puissances sont appelés à prendre des décisions qui seraient inconciliables avec l'idée et le caractère d'une médiation. La Sublime Porte a toujours compris que la médiation des Puissances consisterait avant tout à examiner, à recommander, et à discuter tel ou tel projet de rectification de frontières en s'adressant à chacun des deux Etats, mais particulièrement à celui qui est appelé à faire tous les sacrifices. Cette conviction fondée sur l'observation rigoureuse de l'esprit et des termes de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin doit sans doute exclure toute crainte d'une atteinte à l'indépendance du Gouvernement Impérial et à la liberté de ses délibérations.

Si telle a été la pensée des Puissances, c'est-à-dire si la décision qui, d'après la note de votre Excellence, doit être prise par leurs Représentants à Berlin, n'a d'autre but que de préparer l'action conciliante destinée à amener une entente librement consentie par la Puissance propriétaire du territoire, le Gouvernement Impérial, rassuré sur le respect de son indépendance, n'aura plus d'autre préoccupation que de répondre aux ouvertures que les Puissances Médiatrices voudront bien lui faire à ce sujet.

En ce qui touche la Commission qui, d'après la note de votre Excellence, pourrait se transporter sur le terrain pour régler les questions de détail se rattachant au tracé général, je me fais un devoir de faire remarquer à votre Excellence que cette Commission ne peut avoir, d'après les règles et usages les plus constants, d'autre mandat que celui d'appliquer sur les lieux la ligne sur laquelle l'accord se sera établi entre les Puissances et l'Etat qui est appelé à céder du territoire.

Je ne terminerai pas cette réponse à la première partie de la note de votre Excellence sans la prier au nom du Gouvernement Impérial de vouloir bien prendre acte de sa résolution de faciliter la tâche des Puissances Médiatrices.

La Sublime Porte, confiante dans la justice et dans la bienveillance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britinique et des autres Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, saisira toute occasion de témoigner de son bon vouloir et de sa déférence pour l'Europe.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ABEDIN.

No. 451.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 47.)
Therapia, June 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship on the 7th instant of the desire expressed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to have an answer in writing from me as to the interpretation to be put on several passages of the memorandum which I had sent him containing a record of the conversation which took place at my private audience. Since then I received your Lordship's telegram approving the answer which I proposed to make.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of my written reply. It was sent to the Palace on Wednesday, the 9th instant. I have not received any further communication from the Palace on the subject yet, but I have this moment received a message from Abeddin Pasha begging me to defer my answer to the letter which he believes will be sent to me from the Palace to-day, if I intend to answer it, till he comes to see me to-morrow. As he wished to have a telegraphic answer to that effect, I presume he attaches much importance to the points raised.

I have heard from many quarters that the question of his responsibility is still exercising the mind of the Sultan very seriously, but it does not appear to have shaken his determination to keep power in his hands, as Mahmoud Nedim refused to take the Premiership unless the system under which the Palace influence is all-powerful and the Ministry practically impotent were changed, but his Majesty did not give way. Expressions have escaped him that a desire existed to strip him of his power. He has even said that, if he gave way, he would be like "a porter in the street." On the other hand, nothing can be stronger than the evidence which pours in every day that the Sultan will alone determine the conduct of the Administration almost in every detail.

Your Lordship is aware from the despatches of Sir Henry Layard that there is at present an almost absolute administrative breakdown. What I have been able to see within the short time I have been here even heightens the impression which those despatches conveyed to me.

There is scarcely a province of the Empire, except Crete and the Lebanon, where the most serious troubles do not prevail. Whole classes of officials remain unpaid. The soldiers and sailors receive nothing but their rations, and even for these it is difficult to provide. The artizans in the Arsenal are unpaid, and in a most miserable plight. Orders have been sent to some provinces to leave functionaries unpaid, and to send all money immediately to Constantinople. There are no funds either in the Provincial or Imperial Treasury. It is a mystery how the taxes which are paid in are swallowed up. The administration of justice has been aggravated by recent changes. There has been a more cynical indifference to the claims of foreigners than at any previous period, and the Government has been equally discredited at home as abroad. But for the patience of the population, it is impossible to understand how this state of things can have lasted so long, and for its continuance it is clear that the Sultan is above all men responsible. Many Turks of the old school, even such men as Mahmoud Nedim, are said to be thoroughly alarmed, but they contend in vain against the will of the Sovereign, who is equally unwilling to part with his personal power or to accept its responsibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 451.

Mr. Goschen to Ali Fuad Bey.

Therapia, June 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to comply with the wish expressed by His Majesty the Sultan, and conveyed to me in your letter of the 5th instant, for some explanations in writing in regard to the three points raised by Lord Granville's statement to Musurus Bey, communicated to His Majesty by Musurus Pasha, and restated by myself in identical language at the private audience which His Majesty was good enough to grant to me.

You state that, in the first instance, I had said "that the territorial limits of the supremacy of His Imperial Majesty shall not be contracted more than has been done by the Treaty of Berlin, if this supremacy is not dissociated from the security and prosperity of the population governed by His Majesty," and you inquire "whether it is meant by these words that if the security and prosperity of a province in the Empire may appear to be compromised, this fact alone will entail their autonomy." I beg to assure your Excellency, in reply, that no such meaning is implied.

Permit me to point out to you that you do not quote the words quite correctly. I did not say "shall not be contracted;" I spoke of no consequence beyond the effect which would be produced in the views of Her Majesty's Government. The words simply describe the policy of my Government, and point out that the measure of their desire for the maintenance of Turkish supremacy would depend on the execution of effectual reforms.

Secondly, you ask, looking to the passage declaring that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out in their spirit as well as their letter, "Can His Majesty reckon that its execution will not be exclusively in favour of the other Powers?" To this I would reply that Her Majesty's Government will gladly use all their influence for an impartial execution of all the clauses in the Treaty.

The third point is thus stated in your letter: "Your Excellency affirms that if

the recommendations of the British Cabinet are not carried out the whole of the responsibility will fall on His Majesty;" and you inquire, "Does the Constitution of the Empire admit this responsibility?" Before answering this question allow me to observe that you do not quote the words I actually used. What I ventured most respectfully to say was to the following effect: "The Sultan was all-powerful. It would be to His Majesty that my Government would feel indebted if their requests were complied with. But if they should be disregarded, of which my Government trust there is no chance, it would be painful to Her Majesty's Government to think that it was the Sultan who had not been willing to agree to proposals which had been made in the most friendly spirit as regards the welfare of the Ottoman Empire."

I cannot conceal from His Imperial Majesty that Her Majesty's Government undoubtedly believe that His Majesty has power in his own hands to carry out his own wishes; and, further, that the Article in the Constitution which gives His Majesty power to exile—an Article which has not quite remained a dead letter—makes his Ministers absolutely dependent upon him. The British Government cannot but call to mind that the provisions of the Constitution are themselves in suspense, and that if His Majesty would convoke a well-constituted Parliament, protect freedom of debate, and give greater securities for the independence and responsibility of Ministers, His Majesty would cease to incur that moral responsibility which, whatever may be the letter of the Constitution, practically rests on a Sovereign in his position.

While requesting you to bring to His Majesty's knowledge the interpretation placed by Her Majesty's Government on the language with regard to which explanations have been requested, I wish to renew my most explicit assurances that the English Government sincerely think they are rendering a service to His Majesty in thus stating their belief without reserve.

Her Majesty's Government will learn with all the greater satisfaction the expressions conveyed in your letter on His Imperial Majesty's behalf with reference to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, as it is my duty to state to His Majesty that it is in the execution of that Treaty, and in the concession of liberal and, above all, operative reforms, and in this way only, that Her Majesty's Government hope for the salvation of the Turkish Empire.

No. 452.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Therapia, June 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegram of the character of the change of Ministry which has taken place, and of the various impressions prevailing with regard to it. The change was communicated to me in the first place by Musuros Pasha, who gave me to understand, in giving me this information, that Aheddin Pasha was grateful to me, as, from what the Sultan had told him, he believed he owed his appointment in great measure to me. I reminded Musurus Pasha that the facts were very different. I had complained to him of the recall of Aheddin Pasha from Salonica. I had said "Here is an energetic Governor-General who has done well in Asia Minor and well at Salonica, and he is recalled." His Excellency repeated this to the Sultan, who sent me back a message that Aheddin Pasha, "dont vous m'avez dit tant de bien," was not dismissed, but was summoned to Constantinople to discharge very important duties in the capital. By that time the rumour was afloat that Aheddin was to be Grand Vizier. I at once wrote to Musurus Pasha to the effect that it was one thing to be a good Governor-General, another to be Prime Minister, and that I understood that Aheddin Pasha had neither the necessary experience nor the power in the country for such a position. The fact was I was unwilling that, by an exaggeration and misapplication of my words, the responsibility should be put upon me of Aheddin Pasha being chosen as an untried man for a post which was clearly too high for him. Musurus Pasha told me he had not thought it necessary to inform the Sultan of what I had written, as Aheddin Pasha had been made Foreign Minister, and not Premier. When I saw Aheddin on the following Saturday, I found him still under the impression, assumed or real, that practically he owed his appointment to me. I considered it right, under the circumstances, to let him know that what I had done was

not to recommend him for his present appointment, but to protest against and complain of his recall, as a proof of the anti-reforming spirit of the previous Government and the Sultan. I thought it best to be perfectly frank with him.

The general view is that the present Ministry is transitional. Its action, in the opinion of most persons, will depend very much on the fate of Said Pasha, the late Prime Minister, who has acquired an extraordinary influence over the Sultan. This influence was described to me as "Satanic." He is the evil genius of the Sultan, and is believed to support him in resisting every movement tending to check the exercise of constant absolute power by His Majesty. Of his morality your Lordship can judge by the approaches he made to me at the interview shortly before his fall, which I described to your Lordship. Mahmoud Nedim is said to have remained at the Palace for thirty-six hours, the Sultan in vain pressing the Premiership upon him. Though some accounts state that Mahmoud Nedim gave no reason for his refusal, the most authentic information I have received is to the effect that he stated without reserve to the Sultan that he would not undertake the responsibilities of the post without the power.

An intimate friend of Mahmoud Nedim has come to see me since, and evidently wished to sound me as to the degree of support Mahmoud Nedim would receive from me, if he ultimately became Prime Minister. Mahmoud Nedim, he said, had declared I could not succeed without Turkish coadjutors, and it was intended that I should believe that Mahmoud Nedim would be the right man.

Mahmoud Nedim has been to see me himself, but I found him very reserved. He said he would speak to me at length another time. On my observing that I was always asking myself with whom I had really to deal, the Sultan and the Palace, or the nominal Prime Minister, or a hidden power in the Cabinet, but that I would not put the question to him as he might think it indiscreet; he replied that the question was not indiscreet but very important, and he would answer it another time, when he would go into other matters also. He gave me the impression that he shrank from speaking even before our Dragoman (his Highness speaks Turkish only), for he remarked that he had a person in his confidence who would translate for us when I saw him next.

Your Lordship is doubtless aware that the general judgment as to Mahmoud Nedim now is much more favourable than it used to be. He is now convinced that reforms alone will save the Turkish Empire. He is a man of resolution and capacity, and, what is very important, he has the confidence of the Turkish population, a power which Khaireddin Pasha, who is considered a foreigner, lacks.

Khaireddin, on the other hand, is the cleverer and more modernized man. The Sultan, I am told, though he has a personal friendly regard for him, speaks of him as "un fou."

I have seen the third possible Prime Minister now at Constantinople, Saïvet Pasha, but he confirmed the impression that had been conveyed to me from many sides that he is used up, and unequal to a crisis of the present magnitude.

Much will depend, as your Lordship will have gathered from the foregoing observations, on the degree to which Mahmoud Nedim or Saïd Pasha are respectively able to influence the Sultan, and, through him, the Ministers. I am doubtful at present whether Mahmoud Nedim will, as it was thought at first he would, be the guiding spirit of the new Cabinet. Cadri Pasha himself made a good impression on my colleagues, who saw him on Saturday. He is less heavy in manner, and generally more like a European politician than most Turks. He seems fairly quick and ready.

Abeddin Pasha did not make so good an impression on those who saw him, but I conceive him to be a man somewhat out of the common way, and very unconventional. He is a Greek-speaking Albanian. He is said to go about with a copy of Seneca in his pocket, and he is proud of his proficiency in ancient and modern Greek. He quoted Greek verses of his own composition to the Greek Minister when he received him on Saturday, and told him he would find him "très-Phil-Hellène." He appears to be strong, active, hard-working, and very intelligent. Whether he is honest or not I would not presume to judge. It is not unnaturally considered a strong objection to his appointment that, little more than a year ago, he had no position whatever, being only Inspector of the Galata Exchange, and that consequently he has no hold on public opinion; but it appears to me within the verge of possibilities that he may develop into a striking character if he has time and opportunities given to him.

I inclose, for your Lordship's perusal, memoranda of conversations which Abeddin Pasha has had with Mr. Consul-General Blunt, whom he knew at Salonica, and

with Sir A. Sandison, our First Dragoman. Your Lordship will find them exceedingly interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 452.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Private.)
Sir, *Therapia, June* 10, 1880.

IN compliance with your request, I hasten to report the following language held to me by Abeddin Pasha during a private interview I had with him this afternoon:—

"Je vous ai demandé de venir me voir: d'abord comme un ami à qui j'ai de confiance je tenais à vous voir un moment plutôt pour vous prier de vouloir être l'interprète auprès de son Excellence Mr. Goschen de mes sentiments de reconnaissance pour ce qu'elle a dit de bon pour moi au Sultan. Sa Majesté m'a tout dit et répété les bonnes paroles de Mr. Goschen. Je suis très-reconnaissant.

"Je voudrais aussi vous parler confidentiellement afin de convaincre son Excellence que je tiens à faire tout mon possible pour arranger toutes les questions pendantes du moment de manière à satisfaire l'Angleterre. Vous savez, votre collègue Mr. Wilson sait, que je suis Philo-Anglais, et je vous prie de ne croire que si je verrais que je ne pourrais pas réussir à amener le Gouvernement du Sultan de contenter Mr. Goschen je donnerais ma démission. Ce que je désire est de m'entendre le plutôt avec votre Ambassadeur et qu'il m'assiste et facilite par ses conseils à porter à bonne fin les questions Grecques, Monténégrines, et réformes en Arménie" (here I added, "et en Roumélie aussi," to which he answered, "Oui, Roumélie, sans doute"), and continued thus: "Je voudrais agir le plus tôt car l'influence que j'ai au Palais maintenant pourrait nous servir. Cette influence pourra diminuer avec le temps et alors j'aurais beaucoup de difficultés.

"Peut-être vous voudrez bien répéter ce que je viens de vous dire à son Excellence Mr. Goschen et continuer à servir comme canal impartial et neutre entre lui et moi."

I assured Abeddin Pasha that I would not fail to communicate his views to your Excellency, adding that Sir Alfred Sandison would serve as the best channel of communication to your Excellency of anything of a confidential nature. He hoped to see me again, and begged me to ask Sir A. Sandison to call on him this evening or to-morrow without fail.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 452.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison of Conversation with Abeddin Pasha.

I HAVE the honour to report the substance of a conversation which I had to-day with Abeddin Pasha, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs.

After repeating the conversation he had had with Mr. Blunt, his Excellency went on to say that as his appointment to that post was generally attributed to British influence, he hoped to be allowed to look forward to your Excellency for the support and advice which he will stand in need of in serving his country, and in carrying out to the best of his ability the present views of Her Majesty's Government.

He could not deny that the difficulties of the situation were very great indeed, but he would, nevertheless, spare no effort towards meeting your Excellency's wishes in every possible way, begging you at the same time to believe in his determination to resign his office on the first intimation of your dissatisfaction in regard to the policy to be adopted hereafter, which it is hoped may give peace and security to the Empire.

These being, as he described them, the first principles of his policy, his Excellency then proceeded to enumerate the pending questions which so much interested the European Powers.

Placing the Greek question first in rank, his Excellency then gave me a brief description of the territorial cessions which the Porte would be induced to make in view of a peaceful solution of this important affair.

The port of Prevesa, he said, and if possible the town of Arta, should remain to Turkey, which would give up in lieu a larger portion of Thessaly, including the Gulf and town of Volo, with all the villages on Mount Pelion, but that Turkey was anxious to retain the strategical position of Phener, or Phanari, the district of Cardicha to be also ceded to Greece. After all the sympathy shown to Greece, and taking beforehand into consideration the decision to be given by the Conference which is about to meet at Berlin, it was useless, he thought, for the Porte to try to put off any onger the evil hour by not agreeing at once to the cessions he had already described.

A territorial sacrifice was certainly unavoidable, but it was important at the same time, he added, to bear in mind the peace and safety of Albania, which could only be preserved by excluding from these cessions certain districts and localities in Epirus, as well as the town of Larissa in Thessaly, with a sufficient "rayon" of territory for its existence, which might serve at the same time as a strategical point in view of the future security of Salonica.

He was aware, he said, of the strong opposition made by previous Ministries to all idea of ceding Volo, or any part of the coast between it and Salonica, but that he himself, being of quite a different opinion, would feel no hesitation in strongly recommending its cession, including Volo itself.

These, he said, were the only possible bases on which the Porte could come to an arrangement, but that if they were rejected by Greece, or that the proposed Conference at Berlin wished to give away what Turkey could neither afford nor venture to cede without compromising the security of the remaining Turkish possessions, he for one would be the first to recommend resistance to any similar course.

He could foresee, he added, the consequences of a refusal on the part of Turkey to accept a decision dangerous to her interests. He could well understand also in such case the presence of the combined European naval forces in the Turkish waters, but neither this, nor even perhaps stronger measures, would induce the Sultan's Government to accept the decision of the Conference of Berlin.

The next consequence of its refusal would of course be the invasion of the bordering Turkish provinces by the Greek bands and forces. This, however, the Government and the Albanian population were sufficiently prepared to meet. What the Porte considers as really serious, he went on to say, would be an armed European intervention, in which case Turkey would of course have to yield and accept what was imposed upon her by force of arms, but that it remained to be seen how far the Powers would all agree upon a similar course, and whether it could be adopted without placing them to considerable inconvenience and expense.

The difficulties attending the settlement of the Montenegrin question were, he thought, of an equally serious nature. Without discussing the last irregularities which had taken place, he was fully alive, he said, to the necessity of doing all that was possible with a view to satisfying Europe in this instance also. But what were the means for bringing about such a result? Nearly three-fourths of the Albanians now holding the positions which have to pass into Montenegrin hands are Christians, and are actually acting in conjunction with the Mussulman Albanians, who, comparatively speaking, were in a very small proportion. The Turkish troops at Scutari, &c., already half disaffected, rather than fight to regain the positions in question, would hardly fail to make common cause with the Albanians. The Porte, it is true, may find means of replacing its forces in that quarter by a better class of soldiers, but that anyhow, if the positions are to be regained, this could only be effected chiefly at the cost of Christian blood, which the Porte is anxious to spare.

Its next alternative would be the establishment of a military cordon for the purpose of cutting off the supplies and communications of the Albanians, but in this too Abeddin Pasha seems to apprehend the danger of bloodshed and serious complications for the simple reason that, thus circumstanced, the Albanians will necessarily have to fall upon Podgoritza. The difficulties of the situation, he continued, could only be overcome by means of some peaceful arrangement, in view of which he recommends the granting of a sufficient delay to Turkey, in the course of which she might, through the necessary means of persuasion, obtain the evacuation of the positions. His Excellency suggests the arrangement (1) on the understanding that the Porte shall pay Montenegro a double indemnity in money calculated on what the Principality would have derived from the non-ceded districts during the space of time occupied by the proposed delay; (2) that the Porte shall, under all circumstances, put

Montenegro in possession of the districts and positions now held by the Albanians at the expiration of the delay alluded to.

I of course took care to say little in reply to all that was stated by Abeddin Pasha in the course of this long conversation. It is for your Excellency to judge of the serious nature of certain statements made with reference to the Greek question, but I may be permitted to add that most of them, as well as those which have reference to Montenegro, seem to me to express the views of the Sultan rather than his own.

No. 453.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 9, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE informs me that he has come to an agreement with the Russian Government, which will be at once submitted to the appreciation of the other Cabinets, upon the question of the Dobrudscha frontier.

According to this arrangement the frontier will run along the east side of the high road between Silistria and Arab-Tabia, which will remain in Roumanian territory, while the road will belong to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 454.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 307. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 12, 1880.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Government appear to consider the unionist movement now going on in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia as likely before long to attain a formidable development, and Baron Kallay says that he does not expect a year to pass without an attempt being made to unite the two provinces.

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria does not seem to be suspected of encouraging it, but the Constitution has tied his Highness' hands so tightly as to leave the course pretty nearly clear for the party which, in concert with the agents of the Moscow Committees in Eastern Roumelia, are working to bring about.

His Highness does not appear to be suspected here of entertaining the project of becoming Prince of a united Bulgaria, but a similar confidence is not felt in Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 455.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 22.*)

(No. 316. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 15, 1880.*

I HAVE asked Baron Kallay whether, now that the Conference was about to open at Berlin to discuss the Greek frontier question, the Austro-Hungarian Government had a preference for any particular line that might be proposed.

He said none whatever; they would be generally inclined to favour the project that will give the greatest equitable extension to Greece, while keeping as nearly as practicable to the amount of territory which the Berlin Congress proposed to add to the Greek Kingdom.

There are several different considerations by which the Imperial Government are evidently influenced upon this question, the first and most important being the conviction that the Turkish Empire in Europe is in the process of dissolution, and that the Greeks are the proper heirs to the greater part of it. They see the commencement of the extension of Greece without distrust, and wish to be able to rely upon it in resisting the farther Slav encroachment which they dread.

Nearly the whole of the country along the shores of the Ægean is chiefly inhabited by populations of Greek origin, and, unless I am greatly mistaken, the Austrian Government consider that all this must at some future day be incorporated in the Greek Kingdom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 456.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 317.) *Vienna, June 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE taken an opportunity of speaking to Baron Haymerle in the sense prescribed in your Lordship's despatch No. 265 of the danger of endeavouring to minimize the work to be done by the East Roumelian Commission with regard to the laws for the administration of the Turkish provinces.

His Excellency said that there was really no ground for supposing the Imperial Government to entertain any such a wish, for they were fully as desirous as Her Majesty's Government could be for the introduction of the reforms required to give the Turkish provinces a proper administration, and he expected that, when Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice comes to discuss with M. Kajek the measures which he proposes, there will be found to be the same agreement between the Commissioners of the two Governments as prevailed during the sittings of the Commission at Philippopoli.

There can be no doubt that Lord E. Fitzmaurice was perfectly right in the difference which he thought he perceived between the appreciation of Her Majesty's Government of the duties to be performed by the Commission and that of Baron Haymerle.

His Excellency had at first considered that the Treaty of Berlin had established a wide difference between the work to be done by the Commission, with respect to the Organic Statute for East Roumelia, and the Réglements for the other provinces, for it was itself bound to elaborate the former, while in regard to the latter it had only to examine the projects of the Porte, which in the opinion of the Imperial Government did not seem to indicate a necessity for going into every detail of the measures.

According to these views, the action of the Commission would certainly have been circumscribed greatly below what Her Majesty's Government considered desirable, and the manner in which the Porte prepared the provincial laws appears to have contributed to satisfy Baron Haymerle that the Commission would be obliged to do the work that the Turkish Government ought to have done, but which they have left undone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 457.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 319. Confidential.) *Vienna, June 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Emperor, whom I met this morning at the railway station waiting to receive the Grand Duke of Hesse, took an immediate opportunity of expressing the extreme gratification he had felt at the friendly disposition shown by Her Majesty's Government towards Austria.

He spoke in terms of the warmest recognition of the manner in which your Lordship had consulted his Government upon the questions relating to Montenegro, which so closely touch the interests of this country, and he rejoiced sincerely at the harmony in which all Governments were now proceeding in dealing with the different questions of the day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 458.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 320. Very Confidential.) *Vienna, June 17, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Prince of Bulgaria passed through Vienna on his return from St. Petersburgh, where he had gone to attend the funeral of the late Empress of Russia, and had some conversation with Baron Haymerle, who has told me confidentially what had passed between them.

The Prince is, in Baron Haymerle's estimation, an amiable young man, animated by excellent intentions, but of a character so evidently weak as to make him little able to contend with the difficulties of his position, of which he spoke with apparent despondency.

He said that under the Constitution which he found established he was perfectly powerless, and that the country was practically ruled by the Russians he had been forced to employ.

In addition to the Minister of War and other military officers, not less, the Prince said, than 100 Russian non-commissioned officers had been put into his army, and now that a new judicial organization was to be established, requiring men of education who are not to be found in Bulgaria, as many as eighty are about to be brought from Russia to be put in various judicial and magisterial positions.

A large proportion of all these persons were Nihilists and Revolutionists, who constituted a danger to the country which he could not avert.

Baron Haymerle said that he believed every Government to be aware of the defects of the Bulgarian Constitution, but he pointed out to the Prince that instead of giving way to apathetic despondency, he should endeavour manfully to meet his difficulties; for in the East a ruler who shows energy and determination easily obtained authority.

He remonstrated against the way in which the resources of the Principality were being squandered upon an army for which there was no necessity, as it was exposed to no danger from any quarter, and all the Powers of Europe desired to see its position consolidated; but his Highness must guide his proceedings by the provisions of the Treaty, and there was one point to which it was especially necessary to call his attention.

The Austrian Government had been anxious to avoid causing him any embarrassment, but had not been blind to the fact that the Treaty had been totally disregarded in respect to the demolition of the fortresses; and it was only fair to his Highness to warn him that if this clause continued to be neglected it would be necessary to invite the attention of the Powers to the question.

Baron Haymerle touched upon the question of the union, saying that he hoped the Prince would give it no encouragement.

He said that he would himself do nothing to bring it about, but he asked what he could do if the Eastern Roumelians were to vote it.

Baron Haymerle replied that his Highness could not, of course, be responsible for anything that was done in Eastern Roumelia, but whatever might occur there it would be his duty as well as his interest not to countenance any movement undertaken for the purpose of setting aside the arrangements made by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 459.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 322. Secret.) *Vienna, June 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE asked me to-day whether I was acquainted with what had passed at the Berlin Conference.

I said that I was aware of a proposal having been made by the French Ambassador, seconded by Lord Odo Russell and accepted "*ad referendum*" by the Austrian and German Representatives.

His Excellency observed that this was hardly a strictly accurate description of what had passed, as Count Szechenyi had given an unqualified acceptance of the principle of the proposal, it being only the details that he had taken "*ad referendum*."

Baron Haymerle then said that had been a good deal startled by a declaration which Count Szechenyi reported to have been made by the Russian Ambassador, who said that although the proposal went further than what had been indicated by the Treaty of Berlin, he accepted it because it would give to Greece a boundary approaching more nearly to its natural frontiers, and a departure in this instance from the strict provisions of the Treaty would make it easier to admit other changes which might be desirable.

Baron Haymerle did not intend at once to reply to this telegraphic communication from Count Szechenyi, but if his written Report of the sitting of the Conference is to the same effect, he will instruct the Imperial Ambassador emphatically to declare that his Government had accepted the proposal because they considered it fairly to carry out the views of the Powers as recorded in the Treaty, and that they would not have given their approval to it if they had believed that it went further than had been originally intended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 460.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 324.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE inquired of Baron Haymerle whether he would be disposed to reply to the Turkish answer to the identic note in the manner suggested in your Lordship's telegram No. 163.

His Excellency had not thought that it would be necessary to send a written answer to the communication of the Turkish Government, but as Her Majesty's Government have taken the initiative in this matter, he is quite ready to follow the course suggested, if no objection to it is felt by the German Government, with which he is already in communication on the subject.

The terms in which your Lordship has proposed that the note should be drawn up appear to Baron Haymerle to be very proper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 461.

Count Károlyi to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(Confidentielle.) *Londres, le* 21 *Juin*, 1880.

M. le Comte,

EN me référant à ma note en date du 15 Juin dernier, j'ai l'honneur d'informer Votre Excellence, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, que d'après un télégramme de notre Chargé d'Affaires à St. Pétersbourg, le Gouvernement Russe adhère à notre proposition relative au tracé de la frontière de la Dobroudja à l'est de Silistrie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) KÁROLYI.

No. 462.

Memorandum communicated by Professor Panardieff to Sir C. Dilke, June 22, 1880.

AïDOS AFFAIR.—This affair seems to have arisen from a misunderstanding between the authorities of East Roumelia and the Principality. The case, as was stated to me by a reliable person, occurred in the following wise:—On the frontiers between East Roumelia and Bulgaria there are three villages, inhabited exclusively by Turks, which, according to the Treaty of Berlin, belonged to Bulgaria. Somehow or

other these villages were never taken possession of by Bulgaria, nor were they much troubled by East Roumelia, so that they used to be in an independent state of existence. A few months ago the authorities of East Roumelia informed those of Bulgaria that these three villages ought to be incorporated in Bulgaria, and asked them to occupy them. A small force of regular troops was sent for this purpose, but the villagers, who were not warned beforehand of the coming of the troops, took fright, seized their arms (which they seemed to possess in abundance) and offered resistance. Under the leadership of a notorious brigand Chief, named Chokan Hassan, a large force of armed Turks soon collected from these three villages, as well as from the other neighbouring villages, which are all Turkish, and completely surrounded the Bulgarian troops, who were inferior in numbers, and would have cut them to pieces had not reinforcements arrived in time. These reinforcements were asked and obtained from the Prefect of Bourgas, which seems to have been the nearest town. It is said that a skirmish ensued, in which the Turks were forced to beat a retreat; but the troops, exasperated at the resistance they had met with, destroyed the above-named three villages, and, if my informant is right, about half-a-dozen more that actually belonged to East Roumelia. The reasons that are given for the destruction of these villages are (1) that they have served and were serving as a place of refuge for Turkish bands of brigands, who took opportunity of their local situation on the frontier to make incursions both into Bulgaria and East Roumelia; (2) that in former years many Bulgarians found an untimely death in travelling in that region, and it is quite true that no Bulgarian who dared to venture within range of those villages ever came back alive.

There is no doubt, I think, that these villages did furnish many recruits for the various bands of brigands that have been incessantly carrying on depredations all along the frontier, and there are men who believe that the object of these lawless proceedings was to create disturbances and thus bring about an occupation of the province by Turkish troops.

In reading over the recently published Blue Book on Eastern Roumelia, I did not find any cases of reported outrages which have come within my cognizance and which I could positively and surely deny. Almost all the reported outrages are individual cases of which I do not know anything. But it strikes me that Mr. Michell has placed rather too great a reliance upon the petitions he received and the reports he heard, and, without taking any special pains to inquire into the truth and trustworthiness of these petitions and reports, he has forwarded them to the Ministry as reliable. It is quite true that considerable difficulties were met with in providing for the returning refugees, but these difficulties were occasioned by the Porte rather than by any reluctance on the part of the East Roumelian authorities to receive these refugees. Without any previous arrangement with or warning to the Governor-General of the province, the Porte used to send these refugees in great numbers without giving them means upon which they could live even for a week. The East Roumelian authorities were not at all prepared for such an influx, and hence arose the difficulties. I have reasons to believe that the authorities of East Roumelia did all they could to see these refugees installed, and that they even gave them pecuniary aid. The rent of their houses was given back to them, and all their title-deeds were recognized as valid, although, in very many cases, especially of rich Turkish Beys and Aghas, the authorities were perfectly aware that the land they claimed as their own had been obtained by illegal and arbitrary means.

As to the present and actual state of things in the province, I can positively say that the Turks are well-treated and, so far as I can see, have no cause of complaint. I believe that the common mass of the Turks will be perfectly quiet and satisfied were it not for their Beys and Aghas, who instigate them not to stay in the province under the rule of a Christian Government. The Porte also is trying to do all it can to obstruct the Administration of East Roumelia, and thus to prove to Europe that the establishment of such autonomous States like East Roumelia is a failure. The Porte has hitherto persistently refused to approve of the nomination to the post of Directors of several well-educated and highly-qualified men. I may mention as an example the case of M. Gueshoff, who has been proposed over and over again for Director of Public Instruction, but has been rejected. This obstinacy of the Porte deprives the Governor-General of the assistance and co-operation of some of the best men in the province, who could do a great deal to improve the state of things and to inaugurate a more conciliatory policy.

Despatch No. 171 (p. 244) gives an insight into the way the Kirdjali troubles were fomented by people from outside, and that they were assisted by incursions of armed

Turkish bands from the Vilayet of Adrianople. The attacks which Mr. Michell makes upon the Bulgarian Bishop of Philippopoli, Mgr. Panaretos, as being the author of the Circular against the Greeks are untrue. That Circular was the production of a hot-headed and stupid Bulgarian, and all the Bulgarians of the province execrated his proceedings. Despatch No. 203 (p. 273) refers in a very cursory and unsatisfactory way to the "serious affray" between Bulgarians and Greeks at Stanimaka, and I find that Mr. Michell carefully avoids to make any further report upon the matter. Probably the reason of his silence is that, on that occasion, the Bulgarians were the victims. "Persecution" of Jews at Carlova is likewise misrepresented and "dénaturée;" there being actually no persecution, but only a simple riotous gathering of people—principally women—who did not go to the extent of brutality attributed to them.

These are the observations which I feel confident in making upon the contents of the Blue Book, because I know more or less about these things. As to the others, although I fully believe them to be either pure fabrications, or gross misrepresentations and exaggerations, I do not undertake to disprove now considering the little knowledge I possess at present of the facts stated.

No. 463.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 62.) *Therapia, June* 21, 1880, 11·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I SEE Mr. Corbett writes to you on the 18th instant that he informed Greek Government he doubted whether Powers would look favourably on any attempt of Greece to employ force to carry out decisions of the Conference as regards frontier. I was under the impression that it would probably be necessary and even not undesirable for Greece to occupy frontiers ceded by force if necessary, and if she is strong enough to do so. I venture to draw attention to the point, as it seems to me no longer to be the wish of the Powers in this respect.

No. 464.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22, 7·50 P.M.)

(No. 64.) *Therapia, June* 22, 1880, 3 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TISSOT and I will prepare a note together to-morrow, at request of our collegues, embodying a new proposal to Porte. We hope to get answer to identic note to-morrow, and if so shall make the proposal in the form of a reply to the demand which the Porte will make, as we hear, that they may have two months time for execution of April Agreement.

Musurus Pasha told me to-day of a different proposal which the Porte would like, by which the Porte would give up territory inhabited by Slavs called Vassowich [?]. I presume Austria would make objections, and that it is not desirable to have to go over new ground again, but that either the April note or Mr. Green's proposal should be very energetically and firmly pressed. I learn that Firman is ready for constituting a large Albania.

No. 465.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 14. Conference.) *Berlin, June* 22, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 8.

General Sir L. Simmons says that the Russian proposal is the same as the Greek from the Ionian Sea to the sources of the Kalamas near Han Kalamosibaki, thence to the Aegean Sea it follows the French line.

All the Powers otherwise are agreed as to the frontier from Han Kalamosibaki to the Aegean Sea.

The objection to the Russian line from the Ionian Sea to Han Kalamosibaki are the same as those stated in my memorandum of the 17th instant, inclosed in No. 11, Conference.

On part of its length it goes beyond the letter and spirit of the 13th Protocol; it incloses a considerable population hostile to Greece, presents no military advantages, is much longer and less easily guarded than the French line, and much less adapted for fiscal purposes.

In the Technical Commission yesterday the Representatives of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain rejected the Russian line and accepted the French line; the Representative of Russia abstained from voting on both votes.

No. 466.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 18.) *Scutari, June* 22, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

TO-DAY'S mail having brought newspapers with report that it is contemplated to propose cession of Dulcigno, I hear Scutari Committee has discussed the expediency of sending immediately for 3,000 Dibriotes to occupy that town. This proves how advisable it is to guard against all delay by the Porte.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 467.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22, 9·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 22, 1880, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 20 and 21, I do not know whence the petition was sent to your Lordship, but the [?] Albanian League can only be said to exist as a number of separate and independent particles, which are really local Committees, watching local or provincial interests, and having no connection with each other. When an apparently uniform action occurs in the shape of a shower of telegrams, it may be inferred safely that it has been managed from Constantinople.

The signatures to telegram in question are unknown to me, but evidently belong to natives of Epirus, and as there are several Christian names, I would be disposed to look upon it with suspicion.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 468.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 76.) *Philippopoli, June* 22, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

AS my telegrams to Therapia on the subject may not have been repeated to Foreign Office, I think it better to inform your Lordship that there have been complications in the final nominations of the members of Aïdos [? Commission] which I have reported in my despatches now on their way.

Commission finally consists of three Bulgarians, one Turk, one Austrian, and Colonel Borthwick.

Inquiry has now commenced.

No. 469.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 3.) *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

I APPROVE representations to Prime Minister reported in your telegram of the 21st June.

No. 470.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 138.) *Foreign Office, June 22, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
YOU should show to Lord E. Fitzmaurice confidentially any despatches you may have about autonomy for the Albanians.

No. 471.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 139.) *Foreign Office, June 22, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Elliot's No. 84, do you think that Her Majesty's Government should ask Austrian Government to authorize their Consuls to assist Colonel Wilson under the condition mentioned.

No. 472.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 82. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880.*
Sir,
I HAVE to-day transmitted to you, by telegraph, a description of the frontier line for Greece which has been agreed upon by M. de Freycinet and General Sir Lintorn Simmons, and which has been forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris in a despatch, of which a copy will be sent to your Excellency by messenger to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 473.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 114.) *Foreign Office, June 22, 1880.*
Sir,
THE Austro-Hungarian Government appear disposed to instruct their Consuls in Eastern Roumelia to assist Colonel Wilson in obtaining information, provided that Her Majesty's Government apply for the issue of such instructions, and that the Consuls should not be quoted as having furnished any particulars that might be given.

I should wish your Excellency to inform me whether, under these conditions, you consider that it would be desirable to make the application to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 474.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 17.) *Foreign Office, June 22, 1880.*
My Lord,
I HAVE received your telegram of the 21st instant, and I approve the representations which you made, in conjunction with your Austrian colleague, to the Turkish Prime Minister with regard to the delays caused in the work of the Commission through the procrastination of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 475.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 264.) *St. Petersburgh, June 17, 1880.*
My Lord,
THE "Bereg" newspaper, a very well-informed and frequently an inspired organ, states that a Military Commission, consisting of five Generals, presided over by General Obrutchelf, has recently arrived at Warsaw from St. Petersburgh. This Commission, it is said, will organize a new system of fortifications at Warsaw, besides making a strategical survey of Poznan, and examining a line of country for the construction of a military railway from Sedletz to the station of Malkuicu on the Petersburgh-Warsaw line.

The "Bereg" adds that General Todtleben is engaged on a plan for erecting new fortifications along the Dünaburg, Brest-Zivorsk, and Modlilui lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 476.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 28. Conference.) *Berlin, June 19, 1880.*
My Lord,
WITH reference to my despatch No. 16, Conference, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note communicated to the President of the Greek Frontier Conference by the Ottoman Embassy at Berlin in reply to the identic note of the Powers addressed to the Porte on the 11th instant at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 477.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 515.) *Paris, June 22, 1880.*
My Lord,
IN the account which I have given in my immediately preceding despatch of the proceedings in the French Chambers, I have mentioned that an article on the Greek frontier question in the "République Française" was quoted on the 18th instant in the debate on the Budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies.

I inclose herewith the whole of this article; and I desire to direct your Lordship's attention particularly to the last paragraph, which speaks of the irrevocable character of the decisions to be taken by the Conference now sitting at Berlin, and of the enforcement of those decisions in case of need by the European Powers.

On these points the following language is used:—

"L'Europe juge et statue par l'intermédiaire de ses Représentants: elle n'engage plus la Sublime Porte à faire telle ou telle concession, elle décide que la concession doit être faite." . . . "On ne s'occupe plus de savoir si la Sublime Porte acceptera ou repoussera la sentence rendue; on se réserve purement et simplement de la lui notifier comme un fait accompli, indiscutable, et sur lequel il n'y a plus à revenir. Mais après avoir prononcé l'Arrêt il faudra aviser à l'exécution." . . . "Or, la nature de ces décisions, la forme qui leur est donnée, paraît impliquer que l'Europe se chargera de les exécuter si le Sultan les repousse."*

I inclose also the Report given in the "Journal Officiel" of the observations made on the occasion by M. de Freycinet.

Your Lordship is aware that considerable importance is attached to the articles on foreign policy in the "République Française," because they are supposed to express the sentiments of M. Gambetta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

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* See continuation also:—"Si la question Grecque est tranchée de cette manière, il n'y aura pas de raison pour que le même procédé ne soit pas appliqué à tant d'autres complications qui découlent des dispositions du Traité de Berlin."—T.

Inclosure 1 in No. 477.

Extract from the "République Française" of June 18, 1880.

LA Conférence de Berlin a déjà entamé le travail délicat et important qui lui a été confié par les Puissances. Ce travail, personne n'ignore ce qu'il est ni ne peut douter du sort qui lui est réservé. Il y a deux ans bientôt, un Congrès Européen donnait à la légitimité des revendications Grecques une consécration solennelle. Depuis lors, la question Hellénique a passé par des phases bien diverses et toujours négatives; elle a essuyé bien des vicissitudes: par trois fois les tentatives de conciliation ont échoué, beaucoup par suite de l'attitude déplorable de la Sublime Porte devant une échéance à laquelle elle aurait trouvé plus de profit à faire honneur qu'à la plupart de celles qui découlaient pour elle du Traité de Berlin, beaucoup aussi à cause de la tiédeur d'hommes d'Etat qui s'empressaient d'oublier le lendemain ce qu'ils avaient promis la veille. Et néanmoins, malgré tous ces obstacles et toutes ces hostilités, la question Grecque touche, après un intervalle de deux ans, à la solution que nous avons constamment indiquée comme la seule conforme à la justice, aux véritables intérêts de l'Europe, et à la pacification éventuelle de l'Orient. Les atermoiements auxquels elle a survécu auront au moins servi à prouver sa force et sa vitalité. S'il s'était agi d'une question amenée par une fantaisie diplomatique et artificiellement créée, il y a longtemps que les revendications Helléniques seraient enterrées. Loin de là, elles constituent à l'heure qu'il est une phase tellement importante de la question d'Orient que l'Europe a jugé nécessaire d'en confier la solution immédiate à une Conférence spéciale.

Nous avons dit qu'il n'était pas possible d'éprouver des doutes sur l'issue de la Conférence de Berlin. Tout en effet permet d'affirmer que les Représentants des Puissances ont reçu pour instructions d'interpréter le treizième Protocole et l'Article XXIV du Traité du 13 Juillet, 1878, dans leur acception la plus large. On peut prévoir que la Conférence, ainsi que la Commission Technique, qui aura pour mission d'indiquer, d'après les données générales qu'elle recevra, la future ligne de frontière entre la Turquie et la Grèce, adjugera à cette dernière non-seulement Janina et le district qui l'entoure, mais encore Metzovo. Qui pourrait s'y opposer parmi ceux qui ont souscrit au Traité de Berlin? Sur plusieurs points de l'échiquier oriental, des intérêts divers sont en jeu, et pour les satisfaire les intéressés ont besoin de l'appui, non pas seulement d'une seule ou même de deux des Puissances Signataires du Traité; ils savent que dans tous les cas il faut compter avec les dispositions de ceux qui ont souscrit aux Traités, et que, s'ils contrecarraient la politique des uns sur le terrain de la question Grecque, il pourrait fort bien leur arriver d'être mis en échec à leur tour là où ils voudraient ne rencontrer aucune entrave. D'ailleurs, la question des frontières Grecques a été discutée, examinée sous toutes ses faces pendant plus de vingt mois; elle a été résolue par anticipation par le sentiment public: Janina est déjà moralement annexée à la Grèce, et nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit au pouvoir d'aucune réunion diplomatique de remettre en question un point que l'opinion a déjà tranché de la manière la plus décisive. Le Congrès de Berlin n'a fait, en résumé, que consacrer des modifications territoriales indiquées d'avance par la force des choses; de même la Conférence de Berlin ratifiera sans doute une rectification des frontières, dont tout jusqu'ici a démontré l'urgente nécessité.

Nous le répétons donc, nous n'éprouvons aucune appréhension quant à la nature des décisions de la Conférence. Notre attention se porte plus volontiers sur la manière dont ces décisions seront exécutées. La solution de la question Grecque, telle que les Puissances en ont sanctionné la procédure, porte sur un point d'une extrême gravité; elle forme pour ainsi dire le point de départ d'une politique nouvelle vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte, et du résultat qu'elle aura dépendra à coup sûr la solution de plusieurs autres questions du plus haut et du plus actuel intérêt. D'après le Traité de Berlin, il s'agissait de conseiller à la Sublime Porte d'octroyer à la Grèce les concessions territoriales que celle-ci réclamait, et en dernière analyse d'intervenir plutôt comme arbitre que comme juge. Aujourd'hui ce n'est plus cela: l'Europe juge et statue par l'intermédiaire de ses Représentants; elle n'engage plus la Sublime Porte à faire telle ou telle concession; elle décide que la concession doit être faite, et elle en indique d'une manière précise la proportion et l'étendue. On ne s'occupe pas de savoir si la Sublime Porte acceptera ou repoussera la sentence rendue: on se réserve purement et simplement de la lui notifier comme un fait accompli, indiscutable, et sur lequel il n'y a plus à revenir. Mais, après avoir prononcé l'Arrêt, il faudra aviser à l'exécuter, et c'est justement ce qui donne à la solution du différend Turco-Grec une si haute portée, en

dehors de son importance naturelle. Elle aura pour effet de montrer si la Sublime Porte est disposée à s'incliner devant les décisions solennelles du Tribunal Européen. Or, la nature de ces décisions, la forme qui leur est donnée en ce qui concerne la question Grecque paraît impliquer que l'Europe se chargera de les exécuter si le Sultan les repousse; si la question Grecque est tranchée de cette manière, il n'y aura pas de raison pour que le même procédé ne soit pas appliqué à tant d'autres complications qui découlent des dispositions du Traité de Berlin laissées en souffrance par la mauvaise volonté ou par l'impuissance de la Sublime Porte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 477.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel."

ENFIN, j'arrive à une question plus délicate par laquelle M. Delafosse a terminé son discours: la question des frontières Grecques.

Il m'est, vous le comprenez, Messieurs, absolument impossible d'entrer dans des considérations un peu précises sur une question qui, au moment où je parle, se discute dans une Conférence réunie à Berlin, et dans laquelle j'ai la satisfaction de dire que la proposition présentée par la France a été introduite avec les meilleures chances de succès et a rencontré la sympathie commune de toutes les Grandes Puissances appelées à se prononcer sur la solution à donner au différend. J'aime à croire que la Conférence se terminera dans des conditions aussi favorables que celles où elle a débuté.

Quant à savoir quelle est la sanction dernière que pourront recevoir ses décisions, il ne m'appartient pas de le prévoir; c'est un ordre de faits sur lesquels je ne veux pas anticiper.

Tout ce que je puis dire, c'est que la politique Française s'y manifestera avec toute la prudence que vous pouvez désirer, mais aussi avec toute la dignité que la France ne doit jamais abandonner dans ses relations extérieures. (Applaudissements au Centre et à Gauche.)

No. 478.

Abeddin Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, June 23.)

Constantinople, le 22 Juin, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LES grandes difficultés que rencontrerait la cession éventuelle à la Grèce de centres Albanais aussi importants que ceux de Janina et Preveza sont évidentes. Aussi est-il de toute impossibilité de céder ces deux villes au Royaume limitrophe.

La ville de Larisse, dont la population Chrétienne est en grande minorité, et Metzovo qui est un point stratégique très-important doivent également rester nécessairement à la Turquie. En dehors de ces quatre points la Sublime Porte est prête à prendre en très-sérieuse considération tout arrangement qui lui serait proposé, et à faciliter ainsi la tâche de la médiation.

Vous voudrez bien soumettre ce qui précède, avec tous les développements nécessaires, à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et lui faire bien sentir que la Sublime Porte ne saurait en aucune façon consentir à la cession des points susmentionnés—cession qui ne manquerait certes pas d'amener des complications dont les conséquences seraient des plus fâcheuses pour l'ordre et la tranquillité publics qui doivent préoccuper à juste titre les Grandes Puissances.

Comme vous le voyez, en prenant cette résolution le Gouvernement Impérial fait tout son possible et s'impose de très-grands sacrifices.

No. 479.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

Corfu, June 22, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

SIGNATARIES Albanian League petition are leading people of Margariti on the meeting of the whole district.

No. 480.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

Janina, June 22, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, the first two petitioners are direct descendants of Ali Pasha, of Janina; one resident here, and one usually at Constantinople; they have no great influence. The third signature is a local man of influence, well spoken of by all. I think that the representatives of outlying towns could not have actually taken part in the petition.

No. 481.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

Therapia, June 22, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.)

THE Prime Minister told Sir A. Sandison to-day that two English gentlemen travelling in Thessaly and Epirus stated that they were followed by discontented Greeks, and that their presence in the country was causing irritation among the Albanians. Prime Minister begged to know whether these gentlemen had any official character. I know only of Captain Sale, who is a Commissioner on the Delimitation Commission, but not for a Commission for anything else. What reply shall I make? Captain Sale has not exactly an official character, but, as I understand, is travelling through these regions at the wish of the Government. Prime Minister wants to communicate with local authorities if the two English gentlemen have an official character.

No. 482.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

Therapia, June 23, 1880.

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.)

I RECEIVED official letter from Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that two English officers were at Janina, and that some Greeks had organized a public manifestation; also that Porte was informed that these officers intended to make a tour in the Province of Janina and Thessaly. In view of growing intensity of feeling among Albanians, Minister for Foreign Affairs asks to be at once informed of nature of their mission, and that the officers shall be instructed, if possible, not to travel through the country at a moment when there is a general agitation, and when it is excessively difficult for the authorities to take measures for safety during their continuance. The Turkish authorities may be possibly aware of cyphered telegram being sent by Sale to your Lordship.

I shall probably have to await your Lordship's reply to this telegram, as well as to my telegram No. 67, before answering Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 483.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 81, repeated to you in my No. 19, Her Majesty's Government concur with Austrian Government that the two Governments cannot guarantee cession of territory, and that Prince is not entitled to compensation. We will support the Prince in regard to fortifications.

No. 484.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 10·52 A.M.)

Berlin, June 23, 1880, 9·44 A.M.

(No. 15. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.)

THE Technical Commission not having been able to complete their Report yet, the fourth meeting of the Conference has been put off till Friday next.

No. 485.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 1 P.M.)

(No. 16. Conference. Secret.)
Berlin, June 23, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

AS matters now stand the Conference votes, according to instructions received, will be five to one against Russian amendment and [? for] Anglo-French proposal.

Prince Hohenlohe tells us, privately and confidentially, that we could insure a unanimous vote by making a small concession to Russia and adopting a portion of the Russian amendment by way of compromise.

I have told him that I am bound by the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to support the line agreed to with France on the 12th instant at Paris, and to be guided by the views of my technical adviser, Sir L. Simmons.

Prince Hohenlohe tells me privately that my French colleague holds the same language as myself, whilst my Austrian and Italian colleagues are willing to refer to their respective Governments on the subject.

No. 486.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 17. Conference.)
Berlin, June 23, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Turkish Ambassador tells me that he has been instructed to communicate to Prince Hohenlohe a new proposal on the part of the Porte for the rectification of the Greek frontier, which will be submitted to the Conference on Friday next.

No. 487.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 2·40 P.M.)

(No. 95.)
St. Petersburgh, June 23, 1880, 1·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 182. Russian Government supports Novikow in his objections to Eastern Roumelian inquiry, as stated in your telegram No. 183, and whilst anxious to maintain the agreement between the Powers, considers that investigations conducted by each separately would best answer the purposes aimed at.

M. de Giers asks if anything fresh has occurred to cause the appointment of Colonel Wilson, and he begs that it may not be confirmed until matter can be cleared up by mutual explanations on the part of the Powers, in order that they may continue acting in concert. I send copy of M. de Giers' note by post.

No. 488.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 148.)
Foreign Office, June 23, 1880, 6·55 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 65.

You are authorized to make any representations as to refusal of Porte to allow Italian ship with Khedive's family to pass which you may think necessary to preserve the Treaty rights of navigation for merchant-vessels.

It would be well that you should advise the Porte not to raise such a question by refusing a passage to the Italian ship.

No. 489.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880, 7·10 P.M.*

YOUR No. 67.

Inform Prime Minister that Captain Sale, the British member of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, has been sent to Janina and Mezzovo to furnish Her Majesty's Government with a geographical Report on those places, that his journey is of an unofficial character, and that Her Majesty's Government do not ask more for him than the usual civilities due to an English traveller, and, if necessary, protection from insult.

(Private.)

The Greek Government have remonstrated privately against Captain Sale's anti-Greek sentiments.

No. 490.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 8 P.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 23, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegrams Nos. 174 and 175.

M. de Freycinet will authorize the French Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to join Her Majesty's Minister in asking the Greek Government to accede to the Egyptian Liquidation Decree as a mark of confidence and good will towards France and England.

No. 491.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880, 6·10 P.M.*

YOU should be cautious not to use any language implying that the Powers would disapprove of the employment of force by Greece to carry out the decisions of the Berlin Conference.

No. 492.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880, 7·5 P.M.*

YOURS No. 16, Conference.

What is the compromise proposed, and does Sir L. Simmons think that it could be held to be within the definition of valleys under the Berlin Protocol?

No. 493.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22, 10 P.M.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 22, 1880, 11 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 19.

My interpretation of the result of my recent negotiations with Prince Nicholas is that whilst His Highness was anxious to have a guarantee for the due execution of the final arrangement, he submitted to understanding that if it could not be carried out he would remain with the rights secured to Montenegro by the Convention of the 12th April.

Most of the conditions about the fortifications are contained in Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, whilst abandonment of those near Podgoritza forms part of the Austro-British proposal.

The pecuniary compensation is a matter which the Powers can entirely disregard, Prince Nicholas having merely mentioned that he reserved his rights on the subject as

between himself and the Porte. I believe that the completion of the arrangement must now be looked for in the direction of the Turkish Government, Montenegro being ready to follow course that may be settled to enable her to enter into peaceable possession.

(Sent to Sir H. Elliot and Constantinople.)

No. 494.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 11 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 23, 1880, 8 P.M.*

ASSIM PASHA has summoned the Commission for to-morrow. The Commissioners of the Powers had settled to go to the Galata Serai at 1 o'clock, whether summoned or not.

No. 495.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 10. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880, 11·30 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 20, Conference, of 19th instant.

Her Majesty's Government consider decision of Conference should be drawn up as a report of opinion as to the rectification of frontier to which the Conference considers Turkey and Greece should agree in accordance with the intentions of the 13th Protocol of the Congress.

Powers would subsequently recommend its adoption through their Representatives at Constantinople and Athens.

This opinion is open to modification after learning views of your colleagues.

No. 496.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 11 of the 5th instant, inclosing memoranda drawn up by Colonel Blunt, Inspector-in-Chief of the Gendarmerie in the Vilayet of Adrianople, and Captain Swaine, showing the attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the gendarmerie and the English officers belonging to the force.

Her Majesty's Government approve your intention to remonstrate strongly against the Porte's treatment of these officers, and its evident intention to compel them to resign their appointments.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 497.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 119.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 17, Very Confidential, of the 7th instant, upon the subject of the delay which took place in the granting of an audience to your Excellency to present your credentials to the Sultan, and recording conversations upon the situation of affairs which you had with Musurus, Said, and Sawas Pashas, and I have to acquaint you that your Excellency's proceedings and the language you have held, as reported in your despatch, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 498.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 121.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the inquiries of Kadri Pasha as to the position of Captain Sale, which you report to me in your telegram No. 67 of yesterday, I have to request that your Excellency will inform the Prime Minister that Captain Sale, the British member of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, has been sent to Janina and Mezzovo to draw up a Geographical Report on those places for the use of Her Majesty's Government; that his journey is of an unofficial character, and that Her Majesty's Government do not ask anything more for him than the usual civilities due to an English traveller, and, if necessary, protection from insult.

I may add, for your Excellency's own information, that the Greek Government have made private representations respecting the anti-Greek sentiments with which Captain Sale is credited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 499.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 122.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

Sir,

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires read to me to-day a telegraphic despatch* which he had received from the Porte, stating that it would be impossible for Turkey to cede Janina, Prevesa, Larissa, or Metzovo, but expressing readiness to take into its serious consideration any arrangement which should not include the cession of any of those places to Greece.

Mavrus Bey gave me a copy of the telegram from the Porte, and I inclose one herewith for your Excellency's information. He proceeded to press upon my consideration the points raised in it, but I was compelled to decline discussing the question with him on its merits, on the grounds mentioned in my despatch to Sir H. Layard No. 350A of the 25th ultimo, viz., that there would be no advantage in a discussion of a question in two places at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 500.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 765.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of two telegrams, as marked in the margin,† which have passed between myself and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin relating to the Conference proceedings, and I should be glad if your Excellency would ascertain M. de Freycinet's opinion as to the compromise proposed by Prince Hohenlohe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 501.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 15. Conference.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your despatch No. 20, Conference, of the 19th instant, in which your Excellency requests instructions as to the form in which the decision of the Conference should be given, and I

* No. 478.

† Nos. 485 and 492.

have to state to you, in reply, that in the view of Her Majesty's Government the decision should be drawn up as a report of opinion as to the rectification of frontier to which the Conference, having been summoned under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, considers Turkey and Greece should agree in accordance with the intentions of the 13th Protocol of the Congress.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Conference should confine itself to such a report, leaving the Powers to subsequently recommend its adoption through their Representatives at Constantinople and Athens in an identic or collective note, but they would be prepared to meet the opinion of the other Powers in the matter, and they do not desire to give an absolute decision until they shall have been made acquainted by your Excellency with the views of your colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 502.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 16. Conference.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN your telegram No. 16, Conference, Secret, of this day, you inform me that you learn privately and confidentially from Prince Hohenlohe, that if a portion of the Russian amendment were adopted as a concession to the views of Russia the support of her Plenipotentiary would be obtained, and the line resulting from this compromise would receive the unanimous vote of the Conference.

I have to request that your Excellency will furnish me with the details of the compromise that is suggested, and with Sir Lintorn Simmons' opinion whether it could be considered to be within the definition of the valleys indicated in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 503.

Earl Granville to Consul St. John.

(No. 8.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 59, Political, of the 11th ultimo, and I approve the representations you made to the Vice-Governor with regard to the protection of the Christians at Jacova who were stated by the Roman Catholic Archbishop to be in imminent danger of being massacred by the Kursans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 504.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 17.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 5, Political, of the 1st instant, and I approve your intention to take Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., with you on the journey which you have been instructed to make in the districts of Janina and Metzovo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 505.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 18th instant, in which you invited the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon a

plan suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Government for the solution of the difficulty respecting the tracing of the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria in the neighbourhood of Silistria, involving a slight modification of the line adopted by the majority of the Delimitation Commission.

I have also to acknowledge your note of the 21st instant, in which you informed me that the proposal of the Imperial and Royal Government has been accepted by the Russian Government.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that, through the interposition of Austria-Hungary, this question will probably be settled in a satisfactory manner; and they are prepared to assent to the arrangement proposed if it is agreed to by the other Powers interested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 506.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding the formal assent of the Italian Government to certain specified acts which have been elaborated by the Commissions of Delimitation under the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 507.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 24.) *Buyukdéré, June 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

AN informal meeting of the Commissioners, with the exception of the Turkish members, was held here on Saturday, the 12th instant.

The letter of the Turkish Commissioner summoning the Commission for the 17th instant was considered. It was decided that the reason given by him for delaying the first regular meeting from the 12th instant—as requested by us—to the 17th instant, viz., the occurrence of a change of Ministry, was one to which we should not be justified in objecting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 508.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 25.) *Buyukdéré, June 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

I INCLOSE a paper relating to the population of the Vilayet of Salonica (in its actual limits) prepared by Mr. Alvarez and sent to me by Mr. J. E. Blunt. Your Lordship will observe that the total is in excess of that given in my despatch No. 22 of the 12th instant. This difference is to be attributed to the calculation of the relative proportions of the total and the male population being made in my despatch No. 22 on a uniform basis of a multiplication of the latter by two and a-half, while in the inclosed paper the Christian population is multiplied by three, and the Mahommedan, upon which the burden of military service falls, by two and a-half.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 508*.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 98.) *Sophia, June 14, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Chamber, in a secret Session held on the 11th instant, authorized an advance of a sum of 33,000*l.* being made to the Government of Eastern Roumelia. A question having been put to M. Zancoff by one of my colleagues with regard to this loan, his Excellency explained that the Government of Eastern Roumelia had applied to the Bank of Bulgaria for a loan in order to meet certain immediate payments which the province, in consequence of delay in the collection of the taxes, was unable to make. The Bank of Bulgaria, which was established by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, has not the power of disposing of the money in its possession without the authority of the Chamber. M. Zancoff admitted that he did not see the necessity for discussing the question in a secret Session, and thought that it would have been better if it had been determined to submit the matter to the Chamber in the ordinary course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 508.

Statement as to Male Population of Macedonia.

	Mussulmans.	Non-Mussulmans.
Caza of Salonica with nahiés	19,926	33,749
,, Carnferia, with Nahié of Caterina	2,504	11,800
,, Yenijé with Carnyabad	9,748	11,460
,, Avret Hissar with nahiés	15,768	14,183
,, Stromnitza	6,099	7,391
,, Doiran	8,868	3,718
,, Vodena	9,022	8,639
,, Cassandra with nahiés	4,406	13,910
,, Tecvesch	9,073	10,216
,, Kuprili	7,637	16,794
Nahié of Malesch	963	4,714
Total of Sandjak of Salonica	94,104	136,574
Caza of Drama with Juma	14,268	4,710
,, Cawala with Perawishta	11,516	3,553
,, Sari Schaban	7,699	98
Total of Sandjak of Drama	33,483	8,361
Caza of Seres	11,397	23,631
,, Zekhné	3,070	11,720
,, Menlen	3,789	10,230
,, Petritch	3,266	4,732
,, Demir Hissar	7,471	12,103
,, Nevrocop and Raslogh	23,671	24,775
Total of the Sandjak of Seres	52,664	87,391

Résumé.

	Mussulmans.	Non-Mussulmans.
Sandjak of Salonica	94,104	136,574
,, Drama	33,483	8,361
,, Seres	52,664	87,391
Total of the male population of the vilayet ..	180,251	232,326

Muhammedans, men, women, and children	540,753
Christians, ditto	813,241
Total	1,353,994

No. 509.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 24.*)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

Sophia, June 14, 1880.

MR. MICHELL having communicated to me a copy of the telegram which he sent to your Lordship on the 5th instant, on the subject of the meeting of Bulgarian agitators which had taken place at Slivno, I took an opportunity of asking M. Zancoff whether he had received any information as to what had been the result of the meeting.

M. Zancoff told me that he had seen both M. Stambouloff and M. Givkoff, the Bulgarian delegates, who were both somewhat disappointed. They had gone to Slivno in the hopes of obtaining great things, and had found that, at all events for the present, there was nothing to be done with regard to the union of the Principality with Eastern Roumelia. His Excellency assured me that there was no probability of any attempt being made to upset the existing order of things, and repeated the statement that he has more than once made to me that all that the Principality desired was to be left quiet until she had reorganized the administration.

On my inquiring of his Excellency whether it was true that it had been resolved to recommence the military exercises of the Gymnastic Societies unless they were immediately drawn into the reserve of the militia, his Excellency said that he believed that this was so, and he also informed me that a Bill would shortly be presented to the Bulgarian Chamber for the organization of a National Guard in the Principality.

I told his Excellency that the experience that had been gained in France with regard to the National Guard was not such as to encourage its formation in other countries. I reminded his Excellency that the proportions which the Commune had assumed in Paris in 1871 were due to the existence of a National Guard, and I expressed some astonishment that in the present state of the finances it should be thought advisable to incur the expense which would be entailed by the formation of a National Guard, which appeared to me to be rather an element of danger than of strength for the country.

M. Zuncoff replied that no further expense would be incurred; the National Guard already existed, and all that would be done would be to organize it by law. His Excellency added that there was not the slightest danger of any revolutionary movement taking place in the Principality.

I understand that a law was passed by the Chamber yesterday by which every male Bulgarian between the ages of 20 and 40 will form part of the National Guard, and will be called upon for military service for fifty days in each year. The officers are to be elected by the men, and the superior management is to be entrusted to a Committee appointed by the Chamber and approved by the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 510.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 100.) *Sophia, June 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have just received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna, on the subject of the burning and pillage of Mussulman villages in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I asked M. Zancoff some days ago when I might expect to receive a copy of the Report of General Ehrnrooth, the substance of which had been communicated to me by the Prince of Bulgaria, who had also informed me that a copy should be officially communicated to me.

His Excellency informed me that the Report should shortly be sent to me, but that he had delayed sending it until he should be able to inform me of the steps that had been taken to punish the offenders and prevent a recurrence of the excesses which had taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 510.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, June 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to report upon the late deplorable excesses perpetrated by Bulgarians upon the persons and property of the Balkan Mahommedan population, men being killed, women and girls outraged, their houses, &c., plundered and ransacked, and then set fire to; and this I should have reported upon sooner had it not been that I was unwilling to give credence to the first informations received on the subject, and preferred that a little time should go by for the subsidence of natural excitement and exaggeration, in order to test the details alleged to.

It would appear that towards the end of April the authorities of the Principality of Bulgaria had at last resolved—without, however, informing the Mussulman inhabitants of their intention—upon taking military possession of the district assigned nine months ago to the Principality by the European Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, of which, roughly speaking, the apex of the triangle formed is in the neighbourhood of Kotel (or Kazan) in the inland, and its bases are at

the mouth of the Kamtchik to the north and the mouth of the Gueuziki stream to the south, both on the Black Sea, and which, during the time of the former Turkish Executive, having been administered by the Governors of Slimia, Karnabad, Aïdos, Ahiolon, and Misevria, was continued to be, and even up to the present is, civilly administered by the ruling powers of Eastern Roumelia, with the assent of the Government on this side.

One of the first steps would seem to have been the taking prisoners, on the 30th April, of about eighty persons belonging to the villages of Sari Kovanlik and Bekdji-keui by the troops of the Principality and an armed rabble of Bulgar peasants from Buyuk Tchengé and other villages; of these eighty arrested, four, namely, Mollah Ali, of the village of Madjarlar, Eyoub Oghlou Hussein Tchaoush, of Sari Kovanlik, and Mehmed and Ali Osman, of Bekdji-keui, were hanged at Buyuk Tchengé owing to the earnest exhortations of the Orthodox Bulgarian priest of that place, who, besides reviling the men, is said to have refused their final request of some water in order to perform their "abdessb"—ablution before prayers, according to the Mussulman rites—remarking, at the same time, "Isterem kiamet gününa kadi r beni onoutmiasiniz" ("What I want is that you should not forget me even on the day of judgment"), referring to their belief that they might be damned then on account of the omission of this rite.

Of the remaining seventy-six, it is asserted, though with what truth I am unable to ascertain—not being authorized to travel—that not more than half ever reached Shumla, the rest having been dispatched on the road by shooting, hanging, beating, &c.

On the 5th or 6th May the soldiers of the Principality, together with a large gathering of Bulgar Bashi-Bazouks from the villages of Buyuk Tchengé, Keupreu-keui, Avran, and Soudjoulou in Bulgaria, and from Ergeteh, Attchak-Déré, Oraman, Tchardak, and Yeni-keui in Eastern Roumelia, and from several other places upon both sides of the border, amounting to between 2,000 and 3,000 men, advanced upon and enveloped the village of Bellova, the irregulars being sent in front and the troops not showing themselves. This village was deserted by the adult male population, who had gone to the neighbouring village of Hediatlar to pray for rain; but a few boys managed to break through and gave the alarm to the Turkish neighbours that the village was being attacked by brigands. The Turks then assembled, some 200 in number, a few having rifles; a few shots were fired from both sides, without, it would seem, any casualties, and the troops at length showing themselves, and the Mussulmans perceiving that it was not merely with brigands they had to contend, but also with the regular forces, retreated.

After this the village was given up to plunder and sack, its inhabitants dispersed, and it was finally set fire to and reduced to a heap of ashes.

The signal being thus given, the following places suffered in their turn, viz.: in the Principality:—

Kemhalik, plundered and sacked, all burnt; Tchelibi-keui, plundered and sacked, 2 houses, besides barns, &c., burnt; *Deniz-keui, plundered and sacked, 4 houses and 15 barns burnt; †Hodja-keui, plundered and sacked, three-fourths burnt down; †Nadilir, *Aivadjik, Dana Gueuz, plundered and sacked.

In Eastern Roumelia:—

†Karamandja, plundered and sacked, 1 man with wife and child killed, all burnt down; Kulgamatch, Hediatlar, Tchavdarlik, *Kazalik, plundered and sacked, all burnt down; Kairak, plundered and sacked, all burnt down, 4 killed; *Gedikler, †Lopadjlar, plundered and sacked, all burnt down; Veli Bash, plundered and sacked, half burnt down; †Youssouf Tchobanlar, plundered and sacked, all burnt down.

The total number of killed does not, however, figure, as it would appear to have been about 17, mostly men, but also some women and children. At Karamandja, Kulgamatch, and other places women and girls fell victims to the lust of the Bulgars.

Twenty-two villages‡ are said to have been altogether sacked and more or less completely burnt, and if that number is correct, the foregoing list is still four too few. All the cattle, sheep, &c., were driven away by the robbers, and the plundered grain, household goods, &c., were brought back by them to their own villages, without the authorities on either side interfering with their proceedings.

* Those marked with (†) are mentioned in M. Baracci's statement (Mr. Goschen, No. 54), as entirely burnt; also Palazlar, not mentioned in the above list. Those marked (*) are mentioned as partly burnt; also Denizlü, not given here. Bellova and Djafer, in Bulgaria, not included in this list, were also entirely destroyed.

‡ Total of M. Baracci's list, 13.

The direct damage to property is enormous, but the indirect loss is almost incalculable, especially as the sufferers have been thus prevented from sowing their staple spring crops, and are thus deprived of sustenance and exposed to all but certain starvation.

As is natural, the Bulgarians now try to make out that the Turks were in a state of insurrection, or else that the villages were the haunts of brigands; but the allegation is entirely false as regards the first accusation, and only so far true as to the second in that there are some Turkish brigands in the Balkan, who, having been for the most part previously stripped of all they had by the Bulgar brigands of Ergeteh, Soudjoulou, and such places, have no resource but to prey upon the settled Mussulman inhabitants, and, in some cases, to attack and rob Christian travellers.

The truth is that these doings are owing to the workings of the Pan-Bulgar Societies with the cognizance, if not the active aid, of some of the authorities; as for some time previous to these organized attacks the Bulgarian population had had notice to hold themselves ready for the occasion, and a list of forty-seven Mussulman villages to be destroyed was circulating in some of their hands. At Soudjoulou, M. Yankoloff, the Prefect of Bourgas, stirred up the men there to take arms and destroy the Turkish villages, "as the order or judgment to that effect had arrived from Sophia."

Unfortunately, the authorities here do not supply reliable information upon subjects not redounding to their credit, when requested for official details by myself or colleagues, as generally the facts are either denied, ignorance averred, or, when these means are manifestly impracticable, the misdeeds inflicted on their "brothers" the Turks are set down as being the work of a few bad characters whom they are vigorously hunting down, but never by any hazard catch. A striking instance of this occurred so late ago as the 24th May, when, upon the Austro-Hungarian Vice-Consul inquiring of General Ehrnroth, the Bulgarian Minister for War, then passing through Varna, if it was true, as reported, that twelve or thirteen Mussulman villages had been plundered and burnt, he was assured that only one, Tcholibi-keui, had suffered in any way, proving that that high official was either very badly informed, or was else very anxious to conceal the truth.

In the meantime the inhabitants of the nine or ten neighbouring Mahommedan villages referred to in my despatch No. 7 of the 20th March, 1880, are still kept out of their homes and property without any reason assigned by the authorities; and two or three times every week from 100 to 300 of the Turkish peasant-farmers and their families are leaving this for Constantinople, abandoning almost everything they had, because they find that their further stay has been rendered impossible, though the only probable look-out for them is to starve elsewhere.

As foreseen, the result of the late Minister of the Interior's (M. Economof's) Circular relative to the suppression of brigandage, mentioned in my despatch of the 20th March, has been the legal impoverishing and driving out of the settled Mahommedan villagers: in vain do these give timely notice to the authorities of the vicinity of brigands or vagabonds; the troops, though numerous and close at hand, almost invariably arrive too late, when the persons signalled have come and gone again, and then, on a charge of being accomplices, the least punishment inflicted on the peasants is a crushing fine on the whole village, to acquit which they have to sell their working cattle, if any have been left them, or their last remaining chattels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 511.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 23, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 18 of the 17th instant, my Austrian colleague and I agree that it would be better we should not move further in the matter until we know whether new arrangement about cession of territory has been accepted by the Porte, otherwise latter might tax us with disturbing the minds of the public here.

I have, in a confidential manner, sounded certain influential native Christians, and find they desire the kind of Local Administration proposed.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 512.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 18. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 24, 1880.*

THE French Ambassador and I are doing our utmost to prevent any compromise being brought forward at all.

The limits to the concession, as communicated privately and secretly to us by Prince Hohenlohe, are very vague, and are described as follows:—

"The upper valley of the Kalamas, with that of its affluent the Lunni Ajus, leaving to Turkey the towns of Ravenia, Visiani, and Delvinaki."

Sir Lintorn Simmons is of opinion that the above proposal, although probably within the basin of the Kalamas, will give a much more offensive frontier towards Turkey. It will be longer and more difficult to guard, and therefore more likely to induce border difficulties in the future.

No. 513.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 24, 1880.*

REPRESENTATIVES of Signatory Powers met yesterday afternoon. No answer had been received from Porte about Montenegrin frontier. I urged danger of further delay, explained how intrigues were already on foot to thwart the plan, and advocated immediate action in bringing proposed new arrangement before the Porte. When form of note was discussed Russian Ambassador raised strong objections as to putting new frontier-line before the Porte, because his Government had informed him that the Prince of Montenegro had only accepted in principle, and still desired modifications in the line.

I argued in vain that the interests of Prince of Montenegro might suffer from delay interposed. Russian Ambassador stated his instructions were insufficient for [group wrong] proposal; and he and others [group wrong] did not attach so much importance to the delay caused by his telegraphing, because they thought to make the proposal now would only induce Porte to defer answering still longer. However, in the end it was agreed that, while M. de Novikoff telegraphed for instructions, I should take the opportunity of an audience, which I am to have of Sultan to-day, to place the plan in general terms verbally before him. This will, I believe, meet your Lordship's views.

Later on Musurus Pasha came to me, evidently sent by the Sultan, and, I regret to say, spoke in the strongest terms against any idea of cession of territory in the Dulcigno direction. It would be worse than present cession; he again spoke of the Vassovich plan, of which I told him there was no hope whatever. I shall submit the Anglo-Austrian proposal all the same to Sultan to-day, and hold very decided language as to necessity of question being settled at once. Meanwhile, as I assume Her Majesty's Government is hopeless of uniting Powers on any other plan, it would be well to instruct me to say, in peremptory terms, that either April agreement or the new proposal must be forthwith carried out. I suspect Vassovich proposal is put forward to put responsibility upon Austria and to disunite us if possible. I have thought it right to let Austrian Minister know what is going on.

No. 514.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24, 1·32 P.M.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 24, 1880, 10·15 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 130. Yes, Colonel Wilson need not give up his authority for statements he may receive, but I should wish that it may be known that Austrian Consuls are instructed to give friendly assistance.

No reply yesterday from Russia on this subject. I am very anxious to start Colonel Wilson, as he is losing much time here.

No. 515.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880, 3 P.M.

YOURS No. 64. I approve of your not entering into any discussion with Musurus Pasha as to a third arrangement for the Montenegrin frontier. We greatly prefer the last proposal to that of Count Corti, and we object to any delay in carrying it into effect.

No. 516.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 72, you will see from my telegram of to-day to Lord Lyons that in view of the Russian objections in Lord Dufferin's telegram No. 95 I have proposed to the French Government that English and French Governments should pursue the inquiry separately instead of jointly.

You had better communicate in the same sense with your French colleague.

No. 517.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 69, Her Majesty's Government think the Porte very ill-advised to object to Captain Sale pursuing his inquiries, but they will not undertake the responsibility of retaining him in that part of the country, where his personal safety may be endangered by the opposition of the authorities.

He will therefore be told to withdraw.

No. 518.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 189. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's telegram repeated to you to-day, Her Majesty's Government think that, under the circumstances, it might be as well to take away from the inquiry the international character to which the Russian Government more especially object, and you should therefore propose to the French Government that, instead of pursuing it jointly with us, each Government should undertake it separately.

Her Majesty's Government cannot abandon it, but they do not desire to give it an exceptional character in view of the objection advanced by the Russian Government.

Let me know the French answer by telegraph.

No. 519.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880, 7·20 P.M.

THE Porte has protested to Her Majesty's Ambassador against your continuing your journey, and as your personal safety may be endangered by the opposition of the authorities, Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake the responsibility of continuing you in that part of the country.

You should therefore withdraw at once.

No. 520.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 130.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 8th relative to the inquiry which it was proposed to institute into the burning of Turkish villages and the ill-treatment of Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia, and reporting your intention to employ Colonel Wilson on such inquiry, and I have to inform you that your proceedings in this matter meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 521.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 146.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest,* referring to the possibility of an armed movement for the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. The reports alluded to by Mr. White are to some extent confirmed by the language held by the Prince of Bulgaria, which was reported in Mr. Lascelles' despatch No. 84 of the 18th ultimo, of which your Excellency has a copy. I have accordingly addressed to Mr. Lascelles the instructions of which a copy accompanies this despatch, and I have to request that your Excellency will give similar directions to Mr. Stephen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 522.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 148.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

OWING to the continued objection of the Russian Government to any international character being given to the inquiry which it is proposed to institute into the treatment of the minor populations of Eastern Roumelia, Her Majesty's Government have suggested to the French Government that the two Governments should pursue the inquiry separately instead of jointly, as had been agreed upon.

Your Excellency should inform M. Tissot of the alteration which it is proposed to make in the character of the inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 523.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 149.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 69 of yesterday. Her Majesty's Government consider that it is ill-advised on the part of the Porte to object to Captain Sale pursuing his inquiries; but they will not undertake the responsibility of retaining him in the part of the country where he now is as his personal safety may be endangered by the opposition of the authorities, and he will accordingly be instructed to withdraw.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 155

No. 524.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 18.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 14 of the 31st ultimo respecting the constitution and procedure of the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Commission should follow as far as possible the principles adopted in regard to its proceedings when sitting at Philippopoli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 525.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 21.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 22 of the 12th instant, I have to request that you will send to me a map with the new boundaries of the vilayets marked on it as nearly as you may be able to ascertain them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 526.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 71.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest, referring to the possibility of an armed movement for the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. The reports alluded to by Mr. White are to some extent confirmed by the language of the Prince of Bulgaria, as reported in your despatch No. 84 of the 18th May, and you will not fail to exert your influence as often as an opportunity occurs in discouraging and dissuading His Highness and his advisers from countenancing any such movement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 527.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 18.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

Sir,

THE Porte has protested to Her Majesty's Ambassador against your continuing the tour upon which you are engaged. Your personal safety may be endangered by the opposition of the local authorities, and as under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake the responsibility of continuing you in the part of the country where you now are, they desire that you should withdraw from it immediately.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 528.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 777. Very Confidential.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Minister called upon me this afternoon, and we had some conversation upon the last suggestion of the Russian Government for a slight modification of the proposed Greek frontier-line.

I told Count de Montebello that I had telegraphed to Lord Odo Russell to

No. 527*.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 774.)
Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.

My Lord,

IN view of the objections entertained by the Russian Government to any international character being attached to the inquiry which it is proposed should be instituted into the treatment of the minor populations of Eastern Roumelia, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that under the circumstances it might be as well to take away from the inquiry the international character to which the Russian Government more especially object, and your Excellency will therefore propose to the French Government that instead of carrying it out jointly with Her Majesty's Government, as was proposed, each Government should undertake a separate inquiry.

Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to abandon the intended investigation, but they do not desire to give it an exceptional character in view of the objections advanced by the Russian Government. I shall be glad if your Excellency will inform me by telegraph whether the French Government concur in this view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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ascertain his opinion, and that of Sir Lintorn Simmons, with regard to this plan, and Count de Montebello said he would address a similar inquiry to his Government.

At this moment I received a telegram from Berlin, of which I communicated the substance in confidence to Count de Montebello. It was to the effect that Lord Odo Russell and his French colleague were doing their utmost to prevent any compromise being brought forward at all. It appeared further that the suggested modification was vaguely worded, and that Sir Lintorn Simmons did not consider that it would be desirable, though it might probably be brought within the terms of the definition of the frontier given in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

Count de Montebello and I were agreed that under the circumstances it would be undesirable to do anything that would prejudice the endeavours of the English and French Ambassadors to secure general assent for the line advocated by our two Governments, without any modification. If, however, this should be found to be impossible, I said I thought it would be better to agree to any slight alteration that could fairly be considered as consistent with the terms of the Protocol, even though such alteration might not entirely recommend itself to our technical advisers, in order to secure the hearty co-operation of all the Powers.

M. de Montebello promised to communicate with M. de Freycinet in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 529.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 778.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.*

IN my conversation with the French Minister this afternoon I spoke to him of the objections made by the Russian Government to the proposed joint inquiry into the condition and treatment of the Mussulman and Greek populations in Eastern Roumelia.

I said that as the Russian Government seemed to be so strongly opposed to anything having the character of international inquiry, it seemed doubtful whether, in order to avoid any appearance of dissension, it would not be better to abandon the idea of commissioning Colonel Wilson to investigate on behalf of the English and French Governments, and to let him simply proceed under instructions from Mr. Goschen, obtaining for him such facilities and assistance from the Consular officers of the other Powers as the several Governments concerned might be willing to sanction. I begged that he would ask M. de Freycinet's opinion upon this point.

Count de Montebello at once assured me that this suggestion would quite fall in with M. de Freycinet's views. He said he knew that the French Government were ready to take part in the inquiry or not, exactly as might be found most convenient and agreeable to Her Majesty's Government and to the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No 530.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 18, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship will have observed, from Mr. Blunt's despatches Nos. 86 and 98 of the 15th May and 15th June, which have been forwarded by him to the Foreign Office, on the subject of promises made to Niko, the brigand who captured Colonel Synge, that he was threatening that, unless certain brigands imprisoned at Salonica were released, he would burn the property of M. Rizzo, the Dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate, and that he would inflict other damages.

Looking to the urgent language of Mr. Blunt, I availed myself of the opportunity of the visit paid to me by Abeddin Pasha to bring the matter to his personal notice. He answered very quickly, "There are here two points: the danger to property and the moral point. As to the first, I will make myself responsible. I shall telegraph to-night to have forty men sent at once to protect the property. As to the second, the moral

point, promises seem to have been made by M. Rizzo when Colonel Synge was in danger. I therefore quite understand your pressing us to carry out those promises. It is a moral point with you. But if I let out those brigands, it would give a new stimulus to brigandage. Whenever we captured one party, another party would carry off people to get their companions free. It has been my duty to capture brigands, but not to let them out."

Abeddin Pasha then proceeded to explain to me how, if he had remained a very little time longer at Salonica, he believed he would have broken up Niko's band. Niko was "très, très-intelligent," but he thought he would have caught him.

His Excellency seemed to me to feel a sort of regret that he had been called from his administrative work and put into his present post.

Subsequently to the above conversation with Abeddin Pashá, Mr. Blunt has had an opportunity of speaking with his Excellency upon the subject, and he tells me that some means may still be found to carry out the condition exacted by Niko in this respect. I have, therefore, acceded to Mr. Blunt's request, that he should be allowed to remain here for a few days longer, in order to facilitate the inquiries now going on, a course which will I hope meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 531.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 54.) *Therapia, June 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a memorandum which has been given me by Mr. Consul-General Michell with regard to a statement made to him by Aleko Pasha's Private Secretary respecting the destruction of Turkish villages in the Aidos district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I beg to call your Lordship's particular attention to the fact that Aleko Pasha's Private Secretary, mentioned above, was one of the gentlemen originally appointed on the Aidos Commission of Inquiry, but whose appointment has now been cancelled by the Permanent Committee, as reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 53. G. J. G.

Inclosure in No. 531.

Statement made to Mr. Michell at Philippopoli on June 7, 1880, by M. G. Baraczi de Rimaszombat, Private Secretary to Aleko Pasha.

(Confidential.)

ON the 5th ultimo, the Government of the Bulgarian Principality sent a detachment of volunteers to occupy the village of Bellova (Belibé), which, although within the territory of the Principality under the recent delimitation of its boundaries, was at that time still administered by the Government of Eastern Roumelia.

The old men and the women and children of that village took fright at the approach of what they thought to be a body of Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks intent on their destruction. The able-bodied men of the village had left on the previous day for Galgamatch, and for a place near Borunjuk, for the purpose of making the customary prayers for rain.

They had received no notice of the intended transfer of their village to the Government of the Principality; when the volunteers attempted to take possession of the village they were fired at from a wood in the immediate vicinity by Mussulmans of unknown origin. They may have belonged to the band of Choban Hassan, but there is no evidence to that effect.

The volunteers, therefore, sent word to Major Mennyeff, a Russian officer in command of the 7th Bulgarian Dronjina at Kuprikieu, that they were unable to take the village owing to their being fired upon by brigands.

Major Mennyeff marched at once on Bellova with forty or fifty men, and reached it on Friday, the 7th May. He only found old men and women and children in the village. He sent the oldest man under an escort of two soldiers to tell the Turks not to fire, because he had occupied the village with regular troops.

The old man was unable to reach the wood, being fired upon as he approached. He therefore returned to the village. Major Mennyeff then sent a Turkish boy of 16 with a letter, telling the Turks in the wood that if they did not at once return to the village he would cause it to be burnt and razed to the ground. The boy did not return, and the Turks, instead of sending an answer, began to fire on the village. They had not fired much before. The Bulgarian troops then collected the old men and the women and children, and sent them under escort to Kaprikieu, after which they proceeded to burn the village, and to fire from strong positions into the wood. They lost one man killed and seven wounded. The Turkish loss was not ascertained.

It appears that the men who had been absent praying for rain returned to the village shortly after its destruction, for Major Menayeff told M. Baraczi that he had refused to give up their families (sent to Kaprikieu) unless each man produced a Martini rifle.

This arrangement was set aside at the instance of M. Baraczi.

M. Baraczi is of opinion that the affair might have ended there (the volunteers having dispersed) had it not been for the "stupidity" of Dr. Yankoloff, the Prefect of Bourgas, who was at Golitsa on his way to Varna, when he received news of fighting on the 5th May.

While at a dance at Golitsa, it was reported to him that Turkish brigands were firing upon the Bulgarian troops. Instead of at once proceeding to the spot himself, he authorized the Bulgarian inhabitants of Golitsa and Erketch to take up arms and assist the Bulgarian troops.

He made a harangue at the dance, saying, "Rise, brothers, take up your arms, and assist the Bulgarian militia against Turkish brigands."

When these levies reached Bellova, they found it already destroyed. There was nothing for them to do there; but seeing that the Turkish population had fled, "they thought it would be a good opportunity for getting rid of the Turks altogether," and therefore set fire to the villages of which a list is appended.

The volunteers from Bulgaria only burnt the village of Djafer, in the Principality.

The remaining villages, sacked and burnt either entirely or in part, were at the time of their destruction all situated *de facto* in Eastern Roumelia. One of them (Hodjakieu) was subsequently transferred to the authority of the Principality, together with the village of Belibé (or Bellova), which was destroyed by the troops of the Principality as above stated.

All the villages mentioned below were robbed previously to being burnt. There are others which were only robbed, such as Aivadjik* and Kairak.

The Mussulman population of all those villages fled on the approach of the Christian Bashi-Bazouks, not knowing the exact cause of their appearance, and being afraid of extermination.

The Bailli of Anchiolo stopped them at Borunjuk. The Prefect, Dr. Yankoloff, subsequently saw them at the same place, and endeavoured to persuade them not to run away, but to return to their villages.

On his return, however, to Bourgas from Varna, Dr. Yankoloff told the Departmental Procureur that nothing of the kind described above had happened (*i.e.*, the burning of villages), and instigated the arrest of the Bailli of Anchiolo for negligence.

(Mr. Brophy's despatches, as well as Mr. Michell's, relate the circumstances under which M. Paschalides, the Bailli in question, was twice arrested, and ultimately released.

M. Baraczi entirely confirmed that information, and added that while the Bailli was being conducted to the Prefecture or some other building the Russian Consul at Bourgas put his head out of the window of the Consulate, and screamed out to the gendarmes, "To prison with him! to prison!" M. Baraczi has reported this fact to the Governor-General.)

The only acts of violence against the persons of Mussulmans reported by M. Baraczi are as follows:—

1. At the village of Keulerer, a Turk was killed by Bulgarians.
2. At Kishlnetéré, a Turkish Hodja was beaten and burnt with heated tongs to make him confess he had hidden his money. He was brought to Messembrien.
3. At Erekli, one Turk was wounded.

* One house only was burnt in it.

M. Baraczi added that he could not say there were no more similar cases, but he heard that no Turks had been beaten or women violated in that part of Eastern Roumelia. There had, he thought, been cases of rape in Bulgaria.

M. Baraczi obtained the names of the principal leaders of the gymnasts who had taken refuge in Bulgaria at the time of his tour through the destroyed villages.

M. Baraczi made all these statements to the Privy Council, before which he was summoned by the order of Aleko Pasha.

The Governor-General at once ordered a Commission of Inquiry to be appointed, and told M. Baraczi that he would be one of its members.

M. Baraczi accepted the office, but on two conditions, viz.:—

1. That Dr. Yankoloff should be at once removed from Bourgas, as he had thrown every possible obstacle in the way of M. Baraczi while he was making his inquiries, and would probably continue to do everything in his power to prevent the whole truth from being known; and

2. That the Commission should be provided with an escort of cavalry, for the purpose of arresting the principal delinquents.

The Governor-General accepted both these conditions, and said he would remove Dr. Yankoloff to Eski-Zagra pending the inquiry into his guilt. M. Baraczi stated to me, however, that he much doubted whether the Governor-General would be allowed by Mr. Gueshoff and the Permanent Committee to remove Dr. Yankoloff, who was one of their principal men.

His suspicions proved to be well-founded, for next day the Governor-General announced his intention of retaining Dr. Yankoloff at Bourgas until his guilt had been proved by the Commission, when he would cause him to be tried by a competent Tribunal.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Constantinople, June 14, 1880.

I. *List of Villages in Eastern Roumelia wholly or partly destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks (Gymnasts), belonging to the Province of Eastern Roumelia.*

1. Villages entirely destroyed by fire:—

Nadarlar.	Lopatchlar.
Yusuf Chabanlar.	Palazlar.
Karmanga.	

2. Villages partly destroyed by fire:—

Kedikler.	Denizlé.
Kuzalikieu.	Aivadjik (one house only).
Denizkieu.	

II. *Villages destroyed in Bulgaria.*

Bellova (Belibé), destroyed by Bulgarian troops before transfer to Principality.

Djafer, destroyed by Bulgarian volunteers.

Hodjakieu, destroyed by Eastern Roumelian Bashi-Bazouks before transfer to Principality.

SUMMARY.

In Eastern Roumelia—	
Villages entirely destroyed	5
Villages partly destroyed	5
In Bulgaria—	
Villages entirely destroyed	3
Total	13

No. 532.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 55.) *Therapia, June 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of the Report of the Kirdjali Commission and a confidential memorandum from Colonel Borthwick (who, as your Lordship is aware, was a member of the Commission), and some observations of Mr. Michell on the same subject.

I have not yet been able to read the printed Report, nor should I wish to pronounce an opinion upon it before I had the evidence before me.

I telegraphed to your Lordship to the effect that I had pressed Mr. Michell and Colonel Borthwick as to whether any further inquiry would be expedient or possible, and that they both replied in the negative, and that they regarded the proceedings of the Commission as fair, under the circumstances.

It would appear, from Mr. Michell's observations inclosed, made since the actual Report was in his hands, that he considered it too indulgent to the Gymnasts.

There could, however, be no question that, in view of the Commission having made a Report, which clearly must be accepted under the circumstances, and in view of a Commission having been appointed to inquire into the Aïdos outrages, a collective inquiry into these particular occurrences by the Powers could not take place.

Your Lordship had, by your despatch No. 5 of the 18th May, instructed me, in view of the Reports tending to show an organized system of persecution of the Mussulman and Greek populations of the province, to obtain reliable information as to the state of the country, and, by your telegram No. 1 of the 25th May, to concert with my colleagues as to the Reports received on the destruction of Turkish villages.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in this telegram, I mainly spoke of the burning of the villages in my first communications with my colleagues, though not without reference to the more general inquiry; but the main points were naturally the more flagrant and notorious outrages. The instructions received by some of my colleagues, by the Austrian Minister for instance, with reference to acting with me in the matter, were somewhat vague, but were given, as I am now informed, in view of the local outrages. Practically, therefore, when the proceedings of the Kirdjali Commission and the appointment of the Aïdos Commission removed the necessity for local inquiry, it became a fresh question how far the Signatory Powers would take up the more general inquiry into the persecution of the Mussulmans in concert with us.

The Representatives of France and Italy had, from the first, been very hearty in their approval of the whole spirit under which Great Britain proposed to act. They recognized both the justice of the proceeding and its great political expediency. While we are demanding reforms from the Porte, of which one of the main objects is the protection of populations in a minority, it is clearly right that we should not allow the Porte the advantage of the argument that we are blind or indifferent to alleged persecution of Greeks and Mussulmans by Bulgarian Christians.

I think I may fairly state that the Austrian Minister also felt the force of these views, but there was a disposition on his part, as well as on that of the German Ambassador, who remained very neutral, to accept the reluctance of the Russian Ambassador as a conclusive objection to any active steps on their part, whatever weight they may have attached to our respective arguments.

Under the circumstances, considering that, on the one hand, England stood committed to the inquiry, while, on the other, it was most expedient that the union between the Signatory Powers should be maintained as far as it could possibly be done, I proposed that we alone should collect the information by means of Colonel Wilson, but that, as we were anxious he should have access to as many sources of information as possible, with a view to a thoroughly impartial Report, the Representatives of the other Powers should instruct their Agents at Philippopoli to offer him every facility for obtaining accurate information.

The Representatives of all the Powers interested, except Russia, received this proposal warmly, and have done justice (as, indeed, M. de Novikoff himself has done) to my earnest efforts so to carry out my instructions as to maintain in this matter, as in all others, cordial unity of action. The Russian Ambassador, though still unconvinced, and deprecating any inquiry in any form, and unable, for his part, to offer any suggestion for a course of action to which he would be party, has telegraphed to his Government for instructions. Here the matter rests for the moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 532.

Report of the Kirdjali Commission.

[This was published as "Turkey No. 10 (1880)."]

Inclosure 2 in No. 532.

Memorandum by Colonel Barthwick on the Labours of the Kirdjali Commission.

(Confidential.)

DURING the tour of the "Commission d'Enquête" in the district of Kirdjali, the investigations made in the different villages were conducted with a loyal impartiality which does credit to the honesty of the President, M. Zlataroff. The replies of the Mukhtiars and villagers were taken down in writing, and I am happy to confirm that they were invited in a becoming manner well calculated to elicit the truth, to state what they knew of the late affairs, and what personal grievances they had to put forward. I have reason to believe that the replies given were in the main frank and genuine, though in some cases doubtless ignorant peasants thought to take advantage of an opportunity of being reimbursed their losses, and to this end exaggerated them.

In several villages the chief inhabitants, with the candour of a Turk in face of a direct question, said that they had not yet made up their minds to acknowledge the authority of the new Provincial Government. They said that they had for some time past paid their tithes and contributions to certain persons who influenced them, sometimes under threats in cases where non-compliance was anticipated, and they attributed their attitude to the influence which those men, who inculcated the non-recognition of Eastern Roumelia, had over them. The names of the principal of these instigators appear in the Report of our Commission.

On being reasoned with, these villagers expressed their willingness to accept the new order of things and to live in quiet with their Christian fellow-subjects, and I am of opinion, such is the similarity of their daily lives and interests, that lacking the petty intrigues of small provincial politicians, the Turkish and Bulgarian peasants are capable of living on terms of cordial amity.

Our Commission find that while there was just cause for sending an armed force into this district, its mission was to invite, by all peaceable means, the population to acknowledge the Provincial Government and to render the obedience due. Proper instructions were given to that effect by Lieutenant-Colonel de Tourtaint to Captain Yasheroff, who commanded the three columns about to proceed into the district.

This officer, however, with great want of judgment and in disregard of his instructions, issued orders to the officers under him differing very much from the tone he should have employed under his instructions, while his address to the men of his companies was of the most ill-advised and inflammatory character—calling on them as it did to remember the bravery of their late Russian brethren in arms and to emulate their soldierlike example—an address, indeed, which was quite calculated to convey to the minds of these raw militiamen the idea that they were about to confront an enemy.

Add to this the fact that Captain Yasheroff neglected all the most ordinary precautions that should have been taken to ensure disciplinary surveillance, the soldiery being left on their arrival in the different villages to take care of themselves, no proper measures taken for the billeting of men, while their movements and actions were left for the most part without superintendence by the officers, who, following the example of their commander, thought only of their own comfort and personal excursions; and sufficient cause will be found to account for the recent lamentable events.

Captain Yasheroff, moreover, called to supplement his forces bands of armed civilians, whom he termed "reservists," men who it is true were destined to be drawn into a corps of reserves, but who are not yet regularly enrolled in it, and who were but yesterday gymnasts.

Colonel de Tourtaint, on coming into the district to take account of the movement of the troops, on finding this immediately ordered the Captain to send back to their homes these armed civilians, explaining that his action in this matter was quite illegal. On Captain Yasheroff explaining, however, that the "insurgents" were in strong force in front of them, the Chief of the Staff thought proper to make no further remarks on the presence of the so-called reservists, but told the Captain that they must be dismissed at the latest twenty-four hours after that conversation.

It is a remarkable fact that where these so-called reservists passed, although there was some illegal requisitioning of food, &c., no complaints were made by the villagers to us of any serious thefts, and none of personal violence; while the line of march of the militia, unaccompanied by "reservists," was marked, though not to such a degree as some journals have given out, by theft, rape, incendiarism, and murder.

The responsibility of these acts is laid by the Commission on five officers, namely, Captain Yasheroff, Lieutenant Nicolaieff, Lieutenant Dobreff, Lieutenant Engelhardt,

and Lieutenant Timofeyeff, who are consigned to the hands of civil justice by the Commission. Lieutenant Dobreff is personally charged with wounding a Turkish lad from 16 to 18 years of age in the village of Hodjaler.

The Commission desired to confront the wounded boy with Lieutenant Dobreff, but the former being too ill to travel to Harkien, the officer in question was sent later on to Hodjaler, accompanied by Dr. Vaun and the Assistant Juge d'Instruction attached to the Commission, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the lad would recognize in Lieutenant Dobreff the officer who had assailed him.

I was at that moment absent for two days at Philippopoli on business of the gendarmerie, and it was only on my return to Harkien that I found those gentlemen had been sent to Hodjaler.

I immediately protested that it was most unwise in the interest of justice to have sent only those three persons, for, I argued, that as two were Franks and the third an officer in uniform, it could hardly be expected that the boy in his then state of mental and bodily prostration would have the courage to speak out before the officer charged with assaulting him.

I was of opinion that at least one of the aged Turkish members of our Commission should have been present to encourage the lad to make fearlessly a truthful declaration. I suggested that I might ride hard to overtake the party myself in order to be present at the confronting, but as I must have arrived late, and our President assured me that as soon as the lad could be safely moved he should be brought to Harkien and again confronted with the officer in presence of the Commission, I gave up the point.

Unfortunately, the victim has since died. The officer, however, stands charged with the assault, while an important witness has since been forthcoming in the person of a discharged militiaman, who was, at the time of the event, an orderly of Dr. Vaun's, and the first to call his master "to see a boy whom Lieutenant Dobreff had just wounded."

The matter now rests in the hands of the Procureur-Général.

Where deaths were reported, and sufficient grounds for suspecting murder were shown, our Commission had the bodies exhumed and examined by Dr. Kalcheff, attached to the Commission, as well as by two or three other members.

I was present at the disinterment of several of the bodies which bore the marks of the wounds set forth in the statements of the villagers; in some cases the facts and statements did not agree, owing to a want of knowledge in the people, who mistook, for instance, a bullet for a bayonet wound, but in most of the cases it was only too painfully evident that in several instances people had been most brutally and wantonly murdered.

Much difficulty was also encountered in these examinations, as our Commission, having been sent late to the place where these deeds were committed, was called upon to examine bodies which had been buried from forty to forty-five days; in some instances the flesh parting from the bones when attempt was made to move the body.

An old woman who had been found dead in her house at Akbounar was not exhumed, as the only wound spoken of was said to have been caused by a stake of wood which had been thrust into the private parts; and the doctor affirmed that it would be useless to make an examination in the probable state of decomposition of the body. I was not present at the moment, or I should have insisted on the disinterment of the body, as I have not great confidence either in the medical knowledge or the political honesty of the said doctor.

Much difficulty was also experienced in the verification of rapes, as the majority of cases were those of matrons whom it was useless to submit to examination, and many of whom were aged; but the majority of cases of maidens were verified and established by the doctor, although again the lapse of time between the act and the examination rendered it difficult to affirm the date of the deed. Circumstantial evidence, however, lays the crime indisputably at the door of the militia, two of whom are actually in prison, having been taken in the act; while some thirty-four or thirty-five more are in the hands of the authorities under charges of the gravest misconduct during the late affairs.

During the framing of our Report, which was drawn up in French by Colonel de Tourtaint, I had several times great difficulty in obtaining from him, and from other members of the Commission, a modification in the general tone of the Report, which I found a great deal too complimentary to the Local Government, and also containing some illegal expressions, such as the use of the term "reservists" in designating the bands of armed villagers of whom I have spoken above.

After hard fighting, however, I obtained considerable alteration in the terms of our

Report, and satisfied myself with this, as I became convinced that it was not sought to hide real and palpable crime. On the whole, I have great confidence in the President, and consider the Report to be fairly unbiassed.

I regret to say that at the last moment we had much difficulty with two of the Turkish members who were incorporated with our Commission only after our return from the tour.

They had belonged to a previous Commission, and, having some papers that might be useful to ours, they were invited to join us and to take part in our deliberations. The two, however, are accused by some of the villagers of having falsified previous petitions, and, as this fact is mentioned in our Report, we could not get them to sign it until we admitted (which was just) a note on their part defending themselves against the accusation. I had from the first objected to their presence, but (certain ?) reasons overcame my resistance.

The losses sustained by the villages in property stolen or destroyed, together with the destruction of houses, were estimated by our Commission at £ T. 5,000, inclusive of a sum of £ T. 450, which was adjudged as indemnity for acts of rape. But as the Turkish members of the Commission, from motives of delicacy and principle, refused this latter indemnity, the Commission have drawn the attention of the authorities to this fact, begging them to take the matter into consideration, and to devote this sum to the further relief of some of the most suffering amongst the victims.

I had understood that the Governor-General was anxious to forward some immediate relief to the most necessitous without awaiting our Report; and when in Philippopoli for the two days already mentioned, I asked his Excellency whether I should convey any sum to the Commission? He told me that as soon as our Report was printed the whole sum necessary would be forthcoming, and his Excellency continued by telegrams to urge us to the completion of our work.

On our placing, however, the Report in his hands on the 5th June, and expressing to his Excellency the Vali of Adrianople's anxiety that some satisfaction should be promptly given to these victims, Aleko Pasha called his Secretary and asked for the answer to a communication he had a month before addressed to the authorities concerning a sum already voted by the Provincial Assembly for the indemnity of Kirdjali, but, to my great surprise, the Secretary replied that there was as yet no answer to his Excellency's communication forwarded a month ago.

(Signed) G. BORTHWICK.

Philippopoli, June 8, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 532.

Memorandum.

THE Report of the Kirdjali Commission was drawn up by Colonel de Tourtaint, the chief of the Militia Staff in Eastern Roumelia.

The admissions which it makes respecting the conduct of the Militia are almost lost in the mass of statements respecting the past revolutionary tendencies of the Mussulman population and the activity of robber bands, incited by enemies from within and without the province.

It has evidently been the object of the Commission to clear the Gymnasts of all participation in the outrages.

I am inclined to believe that the Gymnasts were not wholly guiltless. In fact, I sent home the deposition of an Imam, who affirmed that he had been beaten by one of the Gymnasts whom he knew, a Bulgarian blacksmith, of a neighbouring village. He stated to me in the most positive terms (and actually cried when I cross-examined him and appeared to doubt his word), that the Gymnasts had assisted the Militia in violating the women and beating the men of his village.

The Mussulmans may have been afraid of giving evidence against the Gymnasts, because the latter all belonged to villages in a neighbouring district, and might subsequently have resented accusations made against them, whereas no such risk attended the accusation of men belonging to the Militia.

Colonel de Tourtaint was directly interested in exculpating the Gymnasts, for he told me, on his first return from the expedition, that he had reviewed the "reservists" before they left for the seat of the military operations.

Captain Yasheroff has likewise affirmed that it was Colonel de Tourtaint who actually mobilized the Gymnasts.

It was only at Philippopoli that Colonel de Tourtaint became aware of the illegality of his action in recognizing the Gymnasts as "reservists." Colonel Borthwick's memorandum shows that he had some difficulty in persuading the Commission that the Gymnasts could not legally be considered as reserves of the Militia.

In shielding as much as possible the Gymnasts, the interests of Colonel de Tourtaint coincided with those of the Bulgarian members of the Commission, as it has always been the object of the Bulgarians to show that the Gymnasts have never made bad use of their arms, in order to avoid the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies.

Although Colonel Borthwick states in his Confidential Memorandum that "the line of march of the Militia, unaccompanied by the 'reservists,' was marked, though not to such a degree as some journals have given out, by theft, rape, incendiarism, and murder," the comparatively few cases of crime mentioned in the Report bore the appearance of being isolated and exceptional.

Many of them are extenuated and explained away. One of the principal atrocities—the burying of a woman in a dung-heap—is described in a manner which leaves in doubt the circumstances under which the woman was killed.

I believe Colonel Borthwick described the case in a previous memorandum which I transmitted to the Foreign Office.

No mention is made of a woman who, as stated by Colonel Borthwick, was killed "by a stake which had been thrust into her private parts."

Doubt is also thrown on the actuality of the cases of rape, which are naturally difficult to establish, and particularly after the great lapse of time which had occurred between the outrages and the inquiry of the Commission.

In his first memorandum Colonel Borthwick stated that in one village out of eight cases of rape the medical officer had been able to certify to six, the injuries being still of a prominent character.

The Report mentions the case of a young woman found hanging to a tree. The circumstances under which she had been hanged, after having been violated by several militiamen, were described to me by the Imam above mentioned, who was the brother-in-law of the victim.

The Report concludes by condemning Captain Yasheroff and other officers for culpable negligence, for beating prisoners, for setting fire to houses, stealing cattle and tobacco, and in one case for causing the death of a young Mussulman (under circumstances described by Colonel Borthwick).

Captain Yasheroff has not been found guilty of ordering his men to murder an old man and woman (in order that they should not remain as witnesses), as alleged by Dr. Leonidas Goerdjief, a surgeon who accompanied the Militia.

Dr. Leonidas made this statement to Mehmet Pasha, who authorized me to mention it to the Commission. The Doctor had previously made a similar statement to the Greek Consul at Philippopoli, adding that he had actually seen the victims taken out of their houses before it was burnt, for the purpose, as alleged by the soldiers, of being killed by the orders of their commanding officer.

The Doctor remonstrated with the men and tried to save the old couple, but he left the village before their fate was decided.

There is mention on page 26 of the report of the murder of a man and woman, each aged ninety years. This may have been the couple.

When the Doctor was sent for by the Commission he first went to Philippopoli to consult the Greek Consul, being a Hellenic subject. He represented to the Consul that, as he had a wife and several children to support, it would be impossible for him to incur the ill-will of the Bulgarians and Russians by stating the truth, and he went first to Hasskeui, and later to Adrianople, with the avowed intention of not telling the truth.

Rénif Pasha stated to me, however, that the Doctor had given such an equivocal answer, that the truth of the accusation was apparent. He said, among other things, "They did far worse things than that."

As Captain Yasheroff, an avowed Slavophile, "who wanted to do good to the province," was in a state of inebriation the whole time, and taking also into consideration the other acts committed by his troops, there is every reason to believe that the old man and woman were murdered at his instigation, as stated by the Doctor to M. Matalis and Mehmet Pasha.

A Russian officer described to Colonel Borthwick the Kirdjali expedition as an expedition which had been commanded by a "bottle of spirits."

After the crimes mentioned in the Report, it is certainly not satisfactory to find that, with the exception of two men accused of rape, all the other militiamen mentioned have only been found guilty of "robbery" and "brigandage."

Nobody is rendered directly responsible for the capital offence of murder.

The appendices, when printed, will perhaps bring into stronger relief the nature and the extent of the crimes committed.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Therapia, June 18, 1880.

No. 533.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 521.) *Paris, June 24, 1880.*

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I mentioned to M. de Freycinet the decision to which Her Majesty's Government have come respecting the proposed rejoinder to the answer made by the Porte to that part of the identic note of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople which related to the Greek frontier question.

I said that while all the Powers seemed to be substantially agreed as to the language which it would be proper to use if a rejoinder were made, there were some which were of opinion that it would be better to abstain from rejoining at this moment.

I added that, this being the case, Her Majesty's Government had come to the conclusion that it would be advisable to suspend the rejoinder for the present.

M. de Freycinet expressed his entire concurrence in this conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 534.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 24, 1880, 8:30 P.M.*

THE Turkish Commissioners have presented the new law to-day, with the amendments. Those they accept amount to nothing. Commission meets again on Saturday.

No. 535.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 97.) *St. Petersburgh, June 24, 1880, 11 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I AM in hopes this Government will eventually be induced to acquiesce in Colonel Wilson's mission. I have been pressing M. de Giers very strongly on the point. I began by telling him that I was sure your Lordship would be very much disappointed to learn his continued refusal to assent to Mr. Goschen's modified proposition.

M. de Giers' chief fear is lest the contemplated inquiry should be turned into an instrument of persecution against Russian officers. He says that here and there Russian officers may have been in fault, though this is unlikely; if so, their misdeeds should be communicated confidentially to the Russian Government, and not denounced maliciously to the Greek community. In fact, what he dreads is a second Rhodope Commission, which so irritated the Emperor and the Russian army.

I replied that the object of Colonel Wilson's inquiry would be the alleged grievances of the Mussulman population at the hands of the Bulgarian majority, and that there was no danger of its being perverted to a purpose hostile to the officers of the Russian army.

He next objected that Colonel Wilson's mission might lead to the reoccupation of Eastern Roumelia by Turkish troops. I assured him that such a result would be as strongly deprecated by the British Government as by the Emperor.

Lastly, he observed that the proposed inquiry might be used to foment hatred and discord between the mixed races of the province. I told him that, in proposing it, your Lordship had the very contrary object in view, and that he might rest satisfied

that Colonel Wilson's instructions would be such as to preclude the investigation from superinducing the contingencies he deprecated. I insisted strongly on the fact that, under any circumstances, an inquiry would have taken place, and that it would be a great misfortune were the European concert broken by Russia's refusing to acquiesce in it.

At the end of a long conversation M. de Giers said that he would consult the Emperor, and that he thought that, if His Majesty were satisfied in regard to the three points above mentioned, an agreement could be reached.

M. de Giers' brother is dying, and he goes to see him to-morrow or next day, so some days may elapse before I receive an official answer.

No. 536.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 72.) *Constantinople, June 25, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

AT my interview with the Sultan yesterday I brought the Dulcigno plan to his knowledge. He made no remark in reply, only saying he presumed I should discuss it with his Ministers. The part about satisfying legitimate aspirations of the Albanians as a means of preventing their opposition seemed to be disagreeable to him. I hear the Sultan is alarmed at any approach to autonomy. I did not use that phrase, but he inferred that something like autonomy was meant. I still found His Majesty reserved, silent, and apparently dejected; he said nothing of interest on any question, but referred continually to his Ministers.

No. 537.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 73.) *Constantinople, June 25, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

I SAW Kadri Pasha yesterday, and hearing from him that further answer to identic note was on its way to me, and contained invitation to Powers offering another Montenegrin solution, I said it would be offered on the Dulcigno side. He stated his strong objections, among others, that Scutari would be defended less. He hoped for an offer in the Vassovitch direction. I stated I felt sure this was quite impossible. Porte have had [? time to] make up their minds at once, and either execute April engagement forthwith, or, if they could not execute it, then accept at once the practicable Dulcigno plan. Porte was perilling the whole safety of the Empire from its hesitation about a very small bit of land. Both Kadri and Abeddin [? appeared] positive they would execute April engagement, but it could not be done in a day. I replied that delay involved incalculable risks.

No. 538.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 74.) *Constantinople, June 25, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

FURTHER answer to identic note received. Substance as follows:—

Porte, out of deference to Powers, offers again to carry out the measures laid down in the April Memorandum, on condition that the necessary time will be given to the Ottoman authorities.

Porte expresses the conviction that Powers will equally have at heart to avoid the sad consequences which would follow on the employment of force against the Albanians, who, in their ignorance of the unhappy exigencies of politics, tried to resist the cession of their country.

Porte further points to the consequences of a struggle against these armed masses, who are still under the spell of a great enthusiasm, while it is persuaded that with time it could reoccupy the ceded frontier. During the delay, which ought not to be too short, Porte will take efficient means to arrive at this result without shedding blood.

Porte at the same time is ready to consider any other solution which may be suggested by the Powers which would avoid the present vexation [?], the shedding of blood, and would prevent the disorder which would result from a violent resistance.

No. 539.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 12·15 P.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 24, 1880, 11 A.M.

A VERY considerable number of regular soldiers are being allowed to withdraw from here on the ground that they have completed their term of service. The battalion at Dulcigno has thus been reduced by more than a company, and upwards of 1,000 men have been set free to proceed south. The moment for immediately carrying out the proposed cession is very favourable, as the North Albanian mountaineers are showing signs of exhaustion in guarding their positions, but the weakening of the Turkish force is not a good sign of the intentions of the Porte.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 539*.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 12·15 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 24, 1880, 9·30 P.M.

THE newspapers, and, I fear, the Vali also, are confirming the North Albanians in belief that there is truth in the report of the cession of Dulcigno, and active measures are being taken to send a force there. It would be well for the Porte to endeavour to reassure the public here and put it off its guard, otherwise serious difficulties are sure to arise.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 540.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 1 P.M.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 25, 1880, 11·35 A.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 705 of the 23rd, in consequence of Lord Odo Russell's telegram No. 18, Conference, of yesterday, I wait further orders from your Lordship before speaking to M. de Freycinet of Prince Hohenlohe's suggestion as to a compromise concerning the Russian line.

No. 541.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 7 P.M.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 25, 1880, 6·20 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE has answered Austrian Ambassador at Berlin very much in the sense of your Lordship's answer to Lord Odo Russell about the mode of submitting the decision of the Conference to Turkey and Greece. He thinks that they should both be asked in the same manner to accept the frontier agreed upon by the Conference, but that we should not be going far enough if we were merely to intimate that it is the line we recommend, while it would be going too far if it were given as a decision that must be accepted.

No. 542.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 25, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

MONTENEGRO frontier. The Austrian Government consider that the request of the Porte to have two months allowed it for carrying out the April arrangement cannot be granted, and that the proposal of Mr. Green should be energetically pressed.

They are much gratified by your Lordship's refusal to entertain the proposal which they believe to have been suggested by Musurus Pasha for finding a compensation for Montenegro in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

No. 543.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 10·15 P.M.)

(No. 19. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 25, 1880, 9·15 P.M.

I AM happy to be able to inform your Lordship that, at the Frontier meeting of the Conference, which took place to-day, the whole of the Anglo-French line was unanimously voted without modifications.

The Russian Ambassador, after ably defending his amendment, withdrew it in the interest of a unanimous vote, the importance of which he fully appreciated, declared he would vote for the Anglo-French frontier, subject to the approval of his Government, which he hoped to obtain by Monday next, when the Conference meets for the fifth time. The French Ambassador thanked our Russian colleague for the sacrifice which he had made in the interest of unanimity, and took act of his declaration, which we all joined in. On Monday we meet to take all the subsidiary questions into consideration which have been raised during the discussion of the Conference.

No. 544.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 25, 11 P.M.)

(No. 5. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 25, 1880, 5·54 P.M.

GREEK Government are very anxious to know views of English and French Governments as to time when they should call out the reserves and mobilize army. They are anxious not to do so until the troops are likely to be actively employed.

Reserves could not easily be kept embodied for more than six months if kept idle.

Volunteers have been called for, and come in satisfactorily, but sufficient numbers of them cannot be counted on to [? bring] army to war footing or to occupy ceded territory.

Matériel for army on war footing is being provided actively.

No. 545.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 196. Confidential.)
Athens, June 16, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Russian Government have instructed their Chargé d'Affaires in this country to inform the Greek Government that they intend to include the interests of Greece among those which they have undertaken to defend.

They will not initiate any proposals at the Conference, but will maintain the substance of their declarations at Berlin. At the same time, they will support earnestly every advantage which the Conference may be prepared to secure for Greece, and all proposals tending to bring about the fulfilment of the collective decision of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 546.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 198.) *Athens, June* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Italian Government have informed their Representative at this Court that a perfect understanding has been arrived at between France, England, and Italy to maintain at the Conference at Berlin the following line of frontier. It will start from the mouth of the Kalamas, will include Janina and Metzovo, and follow the range of mountains thence to Mount Olympus and the mouth of the Peneus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 547.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 199.) *Athens, June* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI told me to-day that the Government were taking all the necessary measures to place the army and the fleet of Greece on a complete footing of efficiency, in order to be in a position to occupy the territory which they hope will be accorded to them in consequence of the action of the Mediating Powers at Berlin.

The navy of Greece will be, he said, on a war footing in the course of two months, and prepared to act as circumstances may require.

With regard to calling out the reserves in order to raise the army to 40,000 or 45,000 men, M. Tricoupi said it would be necessary to convoke the Chamber, as it is incumbent on the Government, when they may consider it necessary to take such a measure, to communicate their intention to the Chamber if in session, and, if the Chamber is not sitting, to call it together for the purpose. No decision has as yet been come to on the subject.

M. Tricoupi said, further, that the Government would be in a position to provide the necessary number of men furnished with stores and ammunition for one year from the date that they may have to occupy the ceded territory. They were well provided with money by the loan recently concluded, and it was intended to make a further loan if it was found necessary to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 548.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 200.) *Athens, June* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Greek Government has requested the French Government to send a superior officer and others of lower rank belonging to the different branches of the service to assist in the reorganization of the Greek army.

Prince Ypsilanti, Greek Minister in France, reports that M. de Freycinet received the proposal favourably, but said he must consult his colleague at the French War Office on the matter before giving him a final answer.

As some little time has elapsed without a definitive answer being received, M. Tricoupi has telegraphed to Prince Ypsilanti to endeavour to obtain one as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 549.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 203. Confidential.) *Athens, June* 17, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI called upon me to-day to express the great gratification he felt at the tenour of the intelligence in regard to the proceedings of the Conference at Berlin yesterday, and the views of the Plenipotentiaries which he had received.

As this information in regard to the new frontier tallied with that contained in your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday as having been agreed upon at Paris, I read it to his Excellency.

He said that the line proposed was very satisfactory, but he had sent instructions to M. Brailas to represent how important it is for Greece to obtain both sides of the sea between the Island of Corfu and the mainland, and to endeavour to have the terminus of the new frontier placed at a point north of the mouth of the Kalamas, so as to include the channel between Corfu and Epirus, but considerably to the south of the line proposed by the Greek Commissioners at Constantinople, which he allowed was exaggerated.

M. Tricoupi expressed himself as sanguine of an early settlement of the frontier question. I said that an agreement of the Conference as to a line to be proposed to the Porte seemed to me easy of attainment in view of the known disposition of the majority of the Powers, but the difficulty would be to impose it upon the Turkish Government. He said that if Greece could be guaranteed against the Turks by sea, he thought it would be strong enough to carry out the decision of the Conference in spite of the opposition of the Porte; and the most active preparations were being made to enable Greece to do so.

I told his Excellency that I doubted very much that the Powers would look favourably on any attempt of Greece to employ force to carry out the decision of the Conference as regards a new frontier, as if once a war broke out between Greece and Turkey there was great danger of reopening the whole Eastern question, which all the Powers showed an anxious desire to allow to slumber.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 550.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 8. Political.) *Janina, June* 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at Janina this evening. When at Corfu I found it was necessary to telegraph to the Consular Agent at Janina to make certain arrangements for the road.

In this telegram, sent through Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Corfu, I mentioned that I was the Commissioner for the Montenegrin boundary, but in the telegram received at Janina I find it said simply that two English Commissioners were arriving.

Hence there was some misconception as to the nature of my visit, it being supposed that I came as Commissioner for the Greek frontier, which gave rise to some demonstrations of welcome.

I hope to see the Acting Governor-General of Janina early to-morrow morning (to-day being a Mahommedan festival), and will explain the mistake and the errand on which I have come.

I am compelled to close this despatch at once to catch the post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 551.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Janina, June 19, 1880.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 8 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to explain further that in consequence of the error in the telegram mentioned in my previous despatch, and also, as I have just heard, of some telegrams sent by Greeks in Corfu, the people at Janina had been led to expect that the English Commissioners for the settlement of the frontier were arriving.

This was taken advantage of by the Greek party to organize a demonstration of welcome; so that, as I passed the villages from within five hours' distance of Janina, the people turned out and lined the road, and at Janina itself numbers came out for more than a mile to meet me.

As soon as possible after my arrival I saw the Acting Vali and the General in command, and have deemed it best to tell them the exact circumstances under which I came, namely, that I was the Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier, that the work on that frontier being for the time impossible, my time was being utilized in the collection of topographical and ethnological information in the district of Janina.

I am informed that the district to the east of Janina in the direction of Mezzovo is free of brigandage except near Grevena, and that I can go freely about the country; but, as the rumour above mentioned has caused some excitement amongst the Mahommedan Albanians, the authorities think that it would be better to wait for a few days before making excursions in the district.

In the meanwhile, I am profiting by the opportunity to get all the information possible in Janina itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 552.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 18, 1880.*

ON receipt yesterday of your Lordship's No. 136 I drew up a memorandum, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, giving the tenour of the reply which your Lordship proposes to address to the Porte with reference to the answer of the Turkish Government to that part of the identic note relating to the question of the Greek frontier.

I sent this memorandum in a private note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and requested his Excellency to inform me whether the Italian Government concurred in your Lordship's project, and, in that case, if they would instruct the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to concert with Mr. Goschen as to putting it into the form of an identic note to be addressed to the Porte.

Yesterday afternoon I received a private note from M. Cairoli in reply, stating:—

"J'ai examiné le mémorandum que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer par votre lettre d'hier. La teneur de la réponse que Lord Granville propose de faire à la Sublime Porte, en réplique à ses observations concernant la partie de la note identique du 10 Juin, qui regarde la question de la frontière Hellénique, ne saurait soulever, de notre part, aucune objection. Je vais donc télégraphier au Chargé d'Affaires du Roi à Constantinople de se concerter sur cette base avec Mr. Goschen et les autres Représentants, pour la rédaction d'une nouvelle note identique à adresser à la Sublime Porte."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 552.

Memorandum.

IN reply to the answer of the Porte to that part of the identic note which relates to Greece, Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to say that they cannot regard the observations of the Porte as well founded.

The Powers have been compelled to confer among themselves as to the rectification of frontier proper to be adopted, in accordance with the recommendations of the Berlin Congress, in consequence of the delays of the Porte and the evident inutility of attempting to bring about a settlement by negotiations between Greece and Turkey. The former Power had already applied to the Powers for mediation, and the Powers had decided that the only means of bringing the matter to an effectual issue was, that they should settle upon the line of frontier which they considered right and proper, and should then bring it to the knowledge of the Turkish and Greek Governments, in the confidence that the expression of the opinion of Europe would be received by both Powers as conclusive.

Although, for the reasons stated, the Conference has been confined to the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, they will be ready to listen and give due weight to any arguments which either Turkey or Greece may think fit to submit to the Conference.

British Embassy, Rome, June 17, 1880.

No. 553.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 155 of yesterday's date, and to report that I have informed the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, by means of a private note, that, in consequence of the opinions expressed by some of the Powers, Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be advisable to suspend for the present the rejoinder to the answer of the Porte to that part of the identic note which refers to the question of the Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 554.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 294.)
My Lord, *Rome, June 20, 1880.*

M. PAPARIGOPOULO, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires here, has informed the Director of the Political Department in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that he has just received a despatch from his Government stating that, if the Berlin Conference decides to adopt the line of frontier agreed upon between France, England, and Italy, the Greek Government will undertake to secure and maintain its possession.

M. Paparigopoulo had, however, not received orders to communicate this despatch officially to the Italian Government.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 555.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 35. Conference.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 22, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegraphic inquiry of last night, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of General Sir Lintorn Simmons' opinion on the line of frontier

proposed by the Russian Plenipotentiary at the second meeting of the Conference on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 555.

Memorandum by General Sir L. Simmons.

THE Russian proposal is the same as that of M. Brailas, from the Ionian Sea to the sources of the Kalamas, near Han Kalibaki; thence to the Ægean it follows the French line.

All the Powers, therefore, are agreed as to the frontier from Han Kalibaki to the Ægean. The objections to the Russian line, from the Ionian Sea to the Han Kalibaki, are the same as those stated in my memorandum of the 17th instant.

On a part of its length it goes beyond the letter and spirit of the 13th Protocol; it incloses a considerable population hostile to Greece, presents no military advantages, is much longer and less easily guarded than the French line, and much less adapted for fiscal purposes.

In the Technical Commission yesterday the Representatives of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain, rejected the Russian and accepted the French line; the Representative of Russia abstained from voting on both votes.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

June 22, 1880.

No. 556.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 36. Conference.)

Berlin, June 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the Report which I have received from General Sir Lintorn Simmons on the first meeting of the Technical Commission, to consider the rectification of the frontier between Turkey and Greece as agreed upon between France and Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 556.

General Sir L. Simmons to Lord Odo Russell.

Berlin, June 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I attended the first meeting of the Technical Commission at the Foreign Office in this city on Saturday, the 19th instant, when, as the senior military member, I proposed that Colonel Blume, the German Delegate, should preside, which was unanimously agreed to.

In compliance with the instructions given to the Commission by the President of the Conference, we had under consideration the rectification of the frontier between Turkey and Greece, as agreed upon by France and Great Britain.

Colonel Perrier, the French Delegate, gave a general description of the line, to which I added some further explanations in support of it, after which there was a good deal of discussion upon every part of the line, in which all the Delegates took part; upon a statement having been made by the Russian Delegate, that his Excellency the Russian Ambassador intended to submit a proposal to the Conference, the meeting terminated by adjournment, without coming to any decision.

The Commission reassembled on the 21st instant to examine an amendment upon the Anglo-French line proposed by his Excellency the Plenipotentiary of Russia, a copy of which is annexed.

This line, as described by the Russian Delegate, is identical with that described in the memorandum of Sir P. Brailas, which was remitted to your Lordship on the

17th instant, with the exception that it terminates at the point of junction with the Anglo-French line, which from this point to the Ægean Sea was not affected by the amendment proposed by the Russian Plenipotentiary.

Your Lordship will perceive, therefore, that the Greek proposal to include the district of Zagori within the limits of the Kingdom of Greece was not comprised in the proposal of the Russian Plenipotentiary.

The President having suggested, with a view to arriving at a conclusion, that the frontier should be divided for deliberation into three sections:—

1. From the Ægean Sea to the heights near Metzovo.
2. From the heights near Metzovo to the point of divergence of the Russian from the Anglo-French line.
3. From this point of divergence to the Ionian Sea.

The Commission commenced by a debate on the Eastern Section. A good deal of discussion took place as to whether the frontier should be drawn to the north of Olympus, or should follow the crest of that mountain; but the Commission were of opinion that if traced in accordance with the letter and spirit of the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, it could not pass to the north of the watershed which incloses the basin of the Salamyrias, and ultimately agreed unanimously to the line as presented in the Anglo-French proposal.

The second or centre portion was also agreed to unanimously; so that the frontier as described in the Anglo-French proposal from the point of divergence of the Russian amendment, near Han Kalibaki to the Ægean, about 140 miles in length, was approved by the unanimous concurrence of the Delegates of all the Powers.

The Russian Delegate then proceeded to describe and give his reasons why the amendment proposed by the Russian Plenipotentiary should be adopted, but instead of commencing at St. Giorgio and passing round the north shore of Lake Butrinto, in accordance with the proposal of the Russian Plenipotentiary, shown by a green line on the accompanying map, he proceeded to describe another line, commencing at Cape Stilo, which, running along a range of heights parallel and close to the sea, joined the Greek line near Konispolis; thus at once abandoning the claim to the basins of the rivers which flow into the Lake Butinto, and which cannot by any possible interpretation be included in the valley or basin of the Kalamas.

The reasons given by the Russian Delegate were exceedingly obscure; so much so, that neither my French colleague nor myself could fully understand them. They were based chiefly upon statistics prepared at Belgrade in Servia, in which it was claimed that the district included in the basin of the Kalamas and to the north of that river was principally inhabited by Greeks and Albanians of the Greek religion, who had little or no connection with the tribe of the Gliegs to the north; also that it formed part of the Sandjak of Janina.

The Chevalier von Zwiedenck-Südenherst who was present, and had been formerly Austrian Consul-General at Janina, and had made an especial study of the question, produced statistics published by a Greek authority, which proved conclusively that the population in the district of Philiates is almost entirely composed of Christian and Mussulman Albanians, with a few Greek villages interspersed, and stated that his personal knowledge confirmed these statistics; that there was no ill-feeling between the Albanians of the two religions; that the inhabitants of this district had few relations with those to the south of the Kalamas; that the district, although included in the Vilayet of Janina, which extends far to the north, was not part of the sandjak of that name, but with Delvinaki formed part of the Sandjak of Argyrokastro; that its annexation would only cause difficulties to Greece, and that it ought not to be included within her frontiers.

With regard to the populations in the villages in the valley of the western branch of the Kalamas, called Lumü Ajus in the Austrian map, they are principally Greeks.

It was urged, however, that they are not nearly so numerous as the Albanian population in the Philiates district; that considering their intermixture, it is impossible to discover a line which shall divide with exactitude people of different races, and the more so, as they are not to be distinguished by their religions.

The line as proposed by the Russian Plenipotentiary is 20 kilom. longer than the Anglo-French line; it also follows a range of heights of no very great altitude, which can be crossed at all points; whereas the Anglo-French line, according to the information laid before the Commission, is impassable throughout a great part of its length, in consequence of the rapidity of the river and its being inclosed in a deep rocky chasm.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

After a very lengthened discussion the meeting was suspended for a short time, during which the Russian Delegate consulted his Ambassador.

Upon its resumption, before proceeding to take the opinion of the meeting, the President asked the Russian Delegate upon which line he desired that their opinion should be taken: upon the amendment as proposed by the Ambassador, or upon that amendment as modified and advocated by himself, that is, upon the continuous green line, or upon the dotted green line as shown on the plan herewith.

He expressed his desire that the opinion of the Commission should be taken upon the Ambassador's (the continuous) line which the Delegates of Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Germany voted against, and the Russian Delegate abstained from expressing an opinion.

The opinion was then taken as to the orignal Anglo-French proposal with a precisely opposite result, all accepting it with the exception of the Russian Delegate, who again abstained from expressing an opinion.

I have to add, for your Lordship's information, that the Marquis de la Ferronnays was requested to act as Secretary to the Commission, that he is preparing a *compte-rendu* of its proceedings, which are to be printed, so that I have thought it useless to enter more fully into the details of the various arguments adduced on both sides, which will be fully communicated to your Lordship when printed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 556.

Amendment proposed by the Plenipotentiary of Russia.

ADOPTER, pour la partie du tracé occidental, le système des crêtes de montagnes, parcillement à celui proposé pour la frontière orientale, en se guidant autant que possible par le tracé du projet Hellénique, à partir du point de St. George sur la côte de l'Epire au nord du Lac de Butrinto, jusqu'à l'endroit où le tracé Hellénique rejoint le tracé Français aux environs et au sud-est de Paraplana (Carte Autrichienne).

No. 557.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 526.)
Paris, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship did me the honour to communicate to me yesterday a telegram from Lord Odo Russell (No. 16 of the 23rd instant) stating that Prince Hohenlöhe had suggested privately and confidentially to him and his French colleague that, by adopting, by way of compromise, a small portion of the Greek frontier-line proposed by Russia, a unanimous vote might be obtained in the Conference of Berlin.

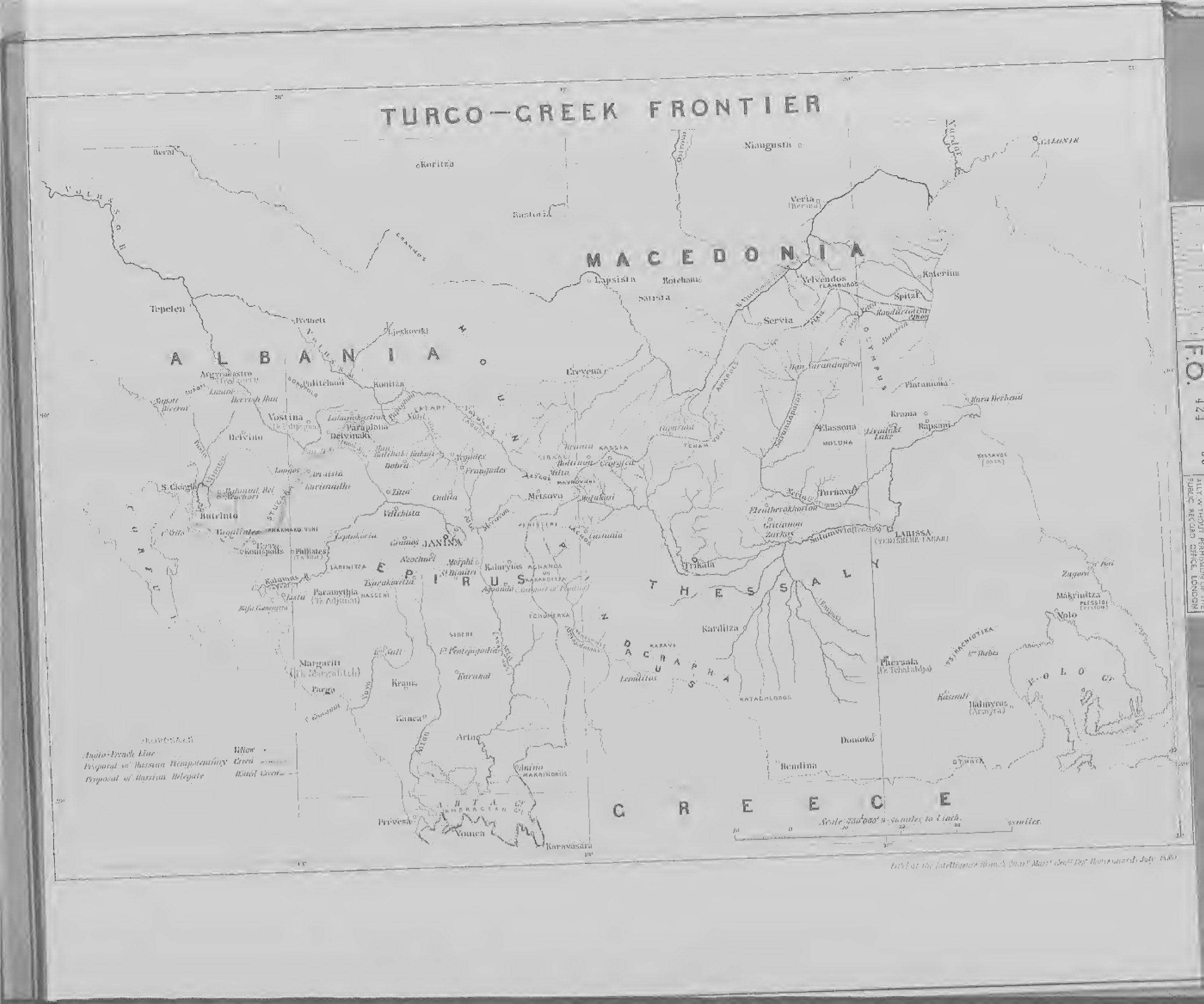
I sought M. de Freycinet yesterday in order to ascertain his opinion on the matter, but did not succeed in finding him.

I have, however, to-day received from your Lordship the text of a further telegram from Lord Odo (No. 18 of the 24th June), from which it appears that, in conjunction with the French Ambassador, he is doing his utmost to prevent any compromise being brought forward at all.

This being the case, I think I shall best consult your Lordship's wishes by abstaining altogether from speaking to M. de Freycinet of Prince Hohenlöhe's suggestion until I receive further instructions from you.

I have transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.


TURCO—GREEK FRONTIER
MACEDONIA
ALBANIA
EPIRUS
THESSALY
GREECE
Koritza
Niaugusta
Veria
Lapsista
Rotchani
Satista
Velvendos
Katerina
Spitzi
Servia
Tepelen
Premeti
Ljeskoviki
Argyrokastro
Politchani
Konitza
Vostina
Paraplana
Delvinaki
Delvino
Crevena
Platamona
Krama
Rapsani
Elassona
Turnavo
Metsovo
Jannina
Butrinto
Kalarytas
Paramythia
Margariti
Pargo
Krania
Ganca
Arta
Prevesa
Vonica
Karavasara
Trikala
Larissa
Kardiitza
Phersala
Domoko
Bendina
Makrinitza
Volo
Halmyros
Zagora
Kasandi
Angio-French Line
Proposal of Russian Plenipotentiary
Proposal of Russian Delegate
Yellow
Green
Round Green
Scale 300,000 = 40 miles to 1 inch.
Miles.

discussion. The Prince clearly understood he must leave the probability in the hands of Powers, and finally only said that as the modifications he wished could not be entertained, he desired that the line should be also presented to Porte as worth [? consideration].

"I regret to have to record that the first report of cession of Dulcigno reached this through a Russian channel.

"With reference to the last part of your telegram, I beg to point out that the proposed arrangement was based on my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd February to Lord Salisbury. Its only advantage over other proposals is that if the Porte accepts it, it can carry it out in spite of the Albanians. I know of no territory which the Turks would willingly surrender, and they appear to consider that they hold the position of the player who said 'Heads I win, tails you lose.'"

No. 562.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 25, 1880.*

THERE has been great agitation in Scutari to-day on account of reported cession of Dulcigno, and the Albanian Committee has decided to send there immediately 1,000 volunteers. The inhabitants of place in question have requested that their defenders may take up a position out of the town so as not to expose their property to the dangers of war. This is a proof that if Turkish Government prevented extraneous support there would be no local resistance.

No. 563.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Janina, June 25, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

INTELLIGENCE has been received from Margariti and Puramytha that Mahommedan Albanians, acting under order from Constantinople with connivance of local authorities, are forcing Christians to sign petitions to Powers against annexation to Greece. I think it probable.

Telegram No. 4 sent through Consul because Turkish authorities have refused to allow my cyphered telegrams to your Lordship to be taken.

(Sent through Consular Agent Kypriotis.)

No. 564.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26, 3 A.M.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 25, 1880, midnight.*

WHEN thanking M. de Giers for the friendly spirit in which he had received and supported the suggestions of Her Majesty's Government in relation to the Greek frontier, I insisted on the fact that the line of delimitation proposed by France appeared to the British Government to be in perfect accordance with the provisions relating thereto in the Berlin Treaty.

M. de Giers replied that he was quite of the same opinion.

No. 565.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

YOURS No. 85.

I should be glad to know more precisely what Baron Haymerle considers would be the proper form to adopt in submitting the decision of the Conference to Turkey

and Greece—one which would not encourage Turkey to set Europe at defiance, and thereby to provoke coercive measures, which it is desirable, if possible, to avoid.

No. 566.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

YOURS No. 80.

Her Majesty's Government concur with that of Austria in objecting to two months being allowed to Porte for carrying out the April arrangement, and that the new proposal should be energetically pressed.

No. 567.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26, 1 P.M.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 26, 1880, 11·50 A.M.*

I HAVE thought it prudent to recall Mr. St. John from Prisrend, and to request him to come here to report on situation there.

No. 568.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 26, 1880.*

YOUR telegrams Nos. 162 and 164.

I have informed Abeddin Pasha of their contents.

Captain Sale telegraphs *en clair* from Janina that the authorities refuse admission to cyphered telegrams to your Lordship. I have at once sent down to the Minister of Public Works [?] on the subject.

No. 569.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26, 2 P.M.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 26, 1880, 12·15 P.M.*

MY telegrams 51 and 71.

Your telegrams 149 and 163.

May I now start Colonel Wilson on his mission, obtaining the friendly assistance of as many other Agents in Roumelia as possible? I think it hopeless to act on Russian suggestion, as communicated to me in your telegram No. 163, as Russia will evidently not consent to join an inquiry such as we are pledged to. The only other plan would be for Russia to state at once clearly what it is she would consent to. The other Powers would certainly agree to amendment proposed by Russia. My own opinion is not to wait any longer now.

No. 570.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26, 5 P.M.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 26, 1880, 12·30 P.M.*

WE meet to-day to propose Dulcigno plan finally and officially to the Porte. Yesterday Russian Ambassador was still without instructions as to the exact line of frontier to be proposed. He is excessively timid and particular, and nearly always raises some objection to what the others are ready to agree to unanimously. He is personally friendly, but it is difficult to make progress in business with him unless his instructions are quite precise and detailed.

No. 571.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

LANGUAGE respecting Montenegrin frontier, reported in your telegram No. 73 of yesterday, entirely approved.

No. 572.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*

YOURS No. 70.

Your proceedings respecting Montenegrin frontier proposal are approved. Her Majesty's Government consider that Turkey must forthwith carry into effect either the new proposal or the April agreement.

No. 573.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 5 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 74 of yesterday.

You may concert with your colleagues to propose the Dulcigno arrangement to the Porte, in reply to further Turkish answer to identic note as to Montenegro.

No. 574.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 7 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 77 of yesterday.

I approve your recalling Mr. St. John.

No. 575.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

YOUR No. 97 of yesterday.

Please refer to my telegram to Lord Lyons, repeated to you in my No. 230 of yesterday, proposing that the inquiry by Colonel Wilson should be a separate instead of a joint inquiry. It appears to have crossed your telegram No. 97.

Express hope that the arrangement will be satisfactory.

No. 576.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to Lord Odo Russell's telegram No. 19, Conference, repeated to you in my No. 242, express satisfaction at course pursued by Russian Government.

No. 577.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 150.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having instructed Mr. St. John to repair to Constantinople to report to you on the state of affairs at Prisrend, as reported in your telegram No. 77 of yesterday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 578.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 282.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

IN view of the objection of the Russian Government to any international character being attached to the inquiry which it is proposed should be instituted into the treatment of the minor populations of Eastern Roumelia, I have proposed to the French Government that, instead of pursuing it jointly with this country, each Government should undertake it separately. My announcement to you to this effect, which I sent to you by telegraph yesterday, had apparently not reached you when you dispatched the telegram to me (No. 97 of the 25th), in which your Excellency still holds out the hope that the Russian Government may eventually be induced to acquiesce in Colonel Wilson's mission.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the proposal which they have now made for a separate inquiry may be accepted by the Russian Government as an arrangement which will meet the objection they entertained to our earlier proposals, and be considered by them as satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 579.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 283.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to express to M. de Giers the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received the intelligence which is contained in Lord O. Russell's telegram No. 19, Conference, of yesterday, that the Russian Plenipotentiary withdrew the amendment he had moved in Conference to the line of frontier suggested by France and England, and that a unanimous vote was consequently secured to that proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 580.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 18. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

A COMPARISON of the verbatim report of your Excellency's speech at the first meeting of the Conference inclosed in your despatch No. 22, Confidential, of the 19th instant, with the précis of it given in the Protocol, shows that several important passages were omitted.

My attention has been specially drawn to the omission of any report of the wish which you expressed on behalf of Her Majesty's Government to avoid before all things the forced annexation of Mussulman populations in such numbers as to be a source of danger to Greece. The reference made by you to the national aspirations of the Greeks is also left out, and in a statement of the guarantees which it would be desirable to secure to the Mussulmans in the ceded districts, a less definite phrase is

substituted for the specific mention of "protection for religion and property, and participation in representation."

As the words of your speech followed the terms of the instructions conveyed to you in my despatch No. 1 of the 9th instant, and the report of them in the Protocol did not seem fully to represent the views of Her Majesty's Government, I asked you by telegraph if the changes were intentional on the part of the Protocolists, or were made with your sanction, and I suggested that it might be advisable that you should take steps for having an accurate report inserted in the Protocol.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 581.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 339.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 85) that Baron Haymerle considers that the Powers should put the result of the Conference on the Greek frontier before the Turkish and Greek Governments in such a form as would be more than a recommendation to accept it, but not an insistance on its adoption. I should be glad to have a more precise explanation as to the form which his Excellency would wish to adopt. As far as Her Majesty's Government understand his views they concur in them; but they consider it to be essential that there should be no opening in the communication to Turkey which would encourage her to set Europe at defiance, and thereby provoke the employment of coercive measures, which we should be glad to avoid.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 582.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 786.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1879.*

THE Count de Montebello called at the Office on the 22nd instant, when, at his request, the present state of the case as regards the Eastern Roumelian Inquiry was explained to him, viz., that Mr. Goschen proposed that Colonel Wilson should proceed on this investigation on behalf of England and France, and that the other Powers should authorize their Consuls to supply him with such information as they were able to do to assist the object of his inquiry.

The Count de Montebello said that he would explain the matter to the French Government, and that M. Tissot would be instructed to make the necessary arrangements with Mr. Goschen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 583.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

(Private.)
My dear Prince, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1880.*

THANKS for your note. In view of the objections of your Government to any joint or collective inquiry in Eastern Roumelia, we have decided to modify our plan, and to propose that Colonel Wilson should merely be commissioned to make the inquiry on behalf of the British Government.

We cannot abandon the inquiry, but we are ready, in deference to the wishes of your Government, to avoid giving it an exceptional or international character.

We hope that under these circumstances your Government will not object to

instruct the Russian Consular Agents to afford Colonel Wilson any information or assistance he may wish to obtain from them.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 584.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 26, 1880, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to the last part of Mr. Green's telegram of yesterday repeated by him to your Lordship, the portion of my telegram to him to which he refers was [as] follows:—

"Meanwhile, I hear confidentially that the strongest objection will be raised by the Porte and the Sultan to return Dulcigno, not only as again transferring Albanians, but as surrendering a port."

No. 585.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 26, 1880, 9 P.M.*

THE Epirus volunteers left to-day for Dulcigno. The inhabitants of that place would not oppose the cession if left to themselves.

Rifles have been obtained to-day secretly from the Government for the Dulcignotes.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 586.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Janina, June 26, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram 24 just received. Will act accordingly, withdrawing by Prevesa to Corfu, where I will hope to receive further instructions.

No. 587.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 27, 1880, 1 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 44 of the 25th instant, Her Majesty's Government consider that they are bound by their public declarations to prosecute the inquiry in Eastern Roumelia. They are pledged to see that the Mussulman population receives equal justice with the Christian. They do not, however, wish to press the French Government to adopt any particular line of action, though they would be glad that the French Consular officers should give Colonel Wilson all the information in their power to enable him to arrive at the truth of the statements which have been made, and some of which, addressed to my predecessor, it has been alleged were of an exaggerated character.

No. 588.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 27, 1880, 1·35 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 79 of the 26th, you had better start Colonel Wilson at once as you propose.

No. 589.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 13. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 27, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 5, Her Majesty's Government think it premature to advise the Greek Government as to mobilizing the army.

No. 590.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 27, 1880, 10·55 A.M.*

THIRD meeting held yesterday. A general discussion of the project took place, and the Articles up to No. 19 were discussed in detail and agreed to.

No. 591.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 20. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 27, 1880, 2·24 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 14, Conference.

Following the precedent of the Protocol of the Congress of Paris, the Protocolists only give very short précis of the speeches made.

I gave the written text of my speech to the Protocolists to make the précis from, and did not insist on the whole being printed, so that the fault of omission is mine, and no blame whatever attaches to the Protocolists.

It is too late now to amplify the Protocols, but your Lordship has the text of my speech in original translation, which can be printed together with the Protocols if required.

I purposely spoke little, so as to leave initiative as much as possible to the other Powers, convinced that Her Majesty's Government would find an advantage in it hereafter.

Does your Lordship wish me to say anything in particular at to-morrow's meeting of the Conference?

No. 592.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 27, 1880, 4 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has informed the President of the Conference that the Russian Government have approved and confirmed his vote in favour of the Anglo-French proposition.

No. 593.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 17. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 27, 1880, 10·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 20, Conference, it would be as well if you could place on record at to-morrow's meeting that Her Majesty's Government will expect that the property and rights of the Mussulman population shall be respected, and that perfect toleration be accorded to their religion and that of all other creeds.

No. 594.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 152.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government concur with your Excellency that it is not expedient to defer any longer the mission with which Colonel Wilson is to be charged in Eastern Roumelia, and they therefore authorize your Excellency to despatch that officer at once to the districts in which his inquiries are to be pursued.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 595.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 82. Secret and Confidential.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 5, Secret and Confidential, of the 25th instant, inquiring, on behalf of the Greek Government, what are the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the time when the Greek army should be mobilized, I have to state to you that they consider that it would be premature to give advice to the Greek Government as to such a measure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 596.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 790.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 25th instant, and in reply to the inquiries addressed to you by M. de Freycinet, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider that they are bound by their public declarations to prosecute an inquiry into the condition and treatment of the Mussulman and Greek population in Eastern Roumelia, and that they are pledged to see that equal justice is meted out to both Mussalman and Christian.

I have informed you by telegraph that it is not our wish to press the French Government to adopt any particular line of action, but I at the same time expressed a hope that the French Consular officers on the spot might be instructed to give Colonel Wilson all the information in their power, so that he may be enabled to arrive at the truth of the various statements which have been made to my predecessor and myself, and some of which, as your Excellency is aware, are alleged to have been of an exaggerated character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 597.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 101.)
Sophia, June 19, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Assembly was closed on the 16th instant. The Prince of Bulgaria being still absent from Sophia, M. Zancoff delivered a speech, in which he stated that he had received a telegram from His Highness authorizing him to close the Session.

The Assembly will meet again on the $\frac{14}{27}$th October, as provided by the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 598.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 24. Conference. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 19, 1880.*

THE technical Delegates for the Conference held a meeting this day, at which the frontier-line proposed by France, England, and Italy met with a general approval. General Bobrikoff, however, the Russian Military Delegate, observed that he was instructed to reserve his opinion upon it for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 599.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 39. Conference. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 23, 1880.*

IT is clear as matters now stand that we can reckon on five votes to one against the Russian amendment and in favour of the Anglo-French frontier as agreed upon at Paris between Sir Lintorn Simmons and M. de Freycinet; but unanimity is so desirable that our efforts must tend to persuade our Russian colleague to withdraw his amendment.

Prince Hohenlohe has confidentially confided to us each individually that we might ensure a unanimous vote if we would consent to adopt a portion at least of our Russian colleague's amendment by way of a compromise which would be a satisfaction to him and to his Government.

I explained to Prince Hohenlohe that I was bound by the instructions I had received from Her Majesty's Government to support the line of frontier agreed to by them with the French Government on the 12th instant at Paris, and to be guided by the views of my technical adviser, Sir Lintorn Simmons, who together with his French colleague, Colonel Perrier, was against any concession.

Prince Hohenlohe said if we could not make it for the sake of unanimity, we still remained sure of a vote of five to one.

The French Ambassador, His Highness said, held the same language as myself to him, whilst some of our other colleagues were ready to concede something to secure a unanimous vote in the end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 600.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 41. Conference. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 23, 1880.*

I MET my Turkish colleague to-day at the Foreign Office, who told me that he had been instructed by his Government to communicate to Prince Hohenlohe, as President of the Conference, a further proposal for the rectification of the Greek frontier, which he thought would be submitted to the Commission on Friday next.

On my inquiring whether the new proposal was more in accordance with the 13th Protocol than the last submitted by the Porte to the Conference, his Excellency said he thought it was, as the Porte declared themselves ready to entertain and accept any rectification of the Greek frontier the Conference might propose, so long as the four towns, Prevesa, Janina, Metzovo, and Larissa, were left to Turkey.

For the sake of conciliation the Porte might be induced to make the sacrifice of the Gulf of Volo to Greece, but the Gulf of Arta Turkey could never consent to cede to Greece.

From his Excellency's account of the new proposal it is evident that it must share the fate of its predecessors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 601.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 43. Conference. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June 24, 1880.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic inquiry of last night, I have consulted General Sir Lintorn Simmons about the privately proposed compromise, and asked his opinion as to whether it could be held to be within the definition of valleys under the 13th Protocol.

Sir Lintorn Simmons says that the limits of the concession as communicated to me privately by Prince Hohenlohe have never been formulated into a distinct proposal to the Technical Commission, and are vaguely described as follows:—

"The upper valley of the Kalamas with that of its affluent the Luni Ajus, leaving to Turkey the towns of Karaplana, Visinni, and Delvinaki."

These conditions are incompatible, Sir Lintorn says, one with the other, Visiani being within the valley named.

In answer to your Lordship's query, Sir Lintorn Simmons is of opinion that the above proposal, although probably within the basin of the Kalamas, will give a much more offensive frontier towards Turkey. It will be longer and more difficult to guard, and therefore much more likely to induce border difficulties in the future.

I find my colleagues by no means unfavourable to the concession, with the exception of the Count de St. Vallier, who is as firm as a rock, and is doing his utmost, in concert with me, to prevent any compromise being brought forward at all, and to obtain an unanimous vote in favour of the Anglo-French line, agreed upon at Paris by Sir Lintorn Simmons and M. de Freycinet, if possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 602.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 331.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 21, 1880.*

I INFORMED Baron Haymerle that as all the Powers were substantially agreed upon the language to be held respecting the answer of the Porte to the identic note, as some of them were of opinion that it would be better not just now to send a rejoinder to it, Her Majesty's Government considered it advisable to suspend the rejoinder for the present.

His Excellency says that he entirely concurs in your Lordship's opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 603.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 333. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 21, 1880.*

THE language which Count Szechenyi reported the Russian Ambassador to have held respecting M. St. Vallier's proposal for the line of the new Greek frontier is so much less accentuated in the Protocol of the Conference, which will be the official record of what passed, that the Austrian Government appears likely not to take formal notice of it; though they do not doubt that their Ambassador took accurate note of, and correctly reported to them, what had fallen from his colleague.

Upon that point your Lordship will no doubt be accurately informed by Lord Odo Russell.

I may mention to your Lordship, confidentially, that it is considered that Count Szechenyi, in merely saying that he did not object to M. St. Vallier's proposal, scarcely intimated as clearly as his Government intended their willingness to support it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 604.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 335.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 21, 1880.

I ASKED Baron Kallay this afternoon whether the Imperial Government would be willing to instruct their Consular Agents in Eastern Roumelia to assist Colonel Wilson in getting information about the treatment of the Mussulman populations, as suggested by Mr. Goschen in the telegram repeated to me by your Lordship.

He said that they had at present received no communication on the subject, but if Her Majesty's Government asked that such instructions should be sent he did not apprehend that there would be any objection to give them, but it would have to be upon the understanding that any information furnished by the Austrian Consular Agents should not be mentioned as being obtained from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 605.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 336. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 21, 1880.

I ASKED Baron Kállay to-day whether he expected that the Porte would acquiesce in the line of frontier to be agreed upon by the Conference, and I took the opportunity of remarking how much the chance of its being accepted would be injured if any Power were to say that coercion would not be employed to enforce it if necessary.

He said that any such intimation would of course be fatal to any prospect of an acceptance by Turkey of a line of frontier in the tracing of which the vague language of the Treaty and Protocol was interpreted exclusively according to the Greek views, and, speaking for himself, he had very little expectation of its being found possible to obtain the consent of the Porte to such a frontier under any circumstances.

I inquired whether the Imperial Government had yet formed any opinion as to the manner in which the frontier that the Conference should agree upon was to be submitted to the Porte.

He said that they had not; though the question was obviously one upon which the Cabinets would have soon to come to a decision, and it was full of difficulty. On the one side, according to received international usage, mediators do not pronounce a decision obligatory on either party, and if the Powers were to do so on the present occasion the Porte would have a fair ground for contending that they had abandoned the position assigned to them by the Treaty.

Upon the other side, there will be the question whether it is possible for the Powers, after having gone so far, to stop short in the work they have undertaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 606.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 269.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, June 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from M. de Giers explaining the views of the Imperial Russian Government with regard to the Eastern Roumelian inquiry, and to the proposed appointment of Colonel Wilson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 606.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Juin, 1880.

M. NOVIKOFF nous mande que Mr. Goschen revient sur la question de l'enquête en Roumélie Orientale que nous croyions réglée d'après nos explications avec le Gouvernement Anglais. Il renonce à l'enquête collective et même aux investigations séparées, mais il propose une enquête faite par un Délégué Anglais seul. Les Représentants étrangers recevraient seulement l'ordre de lui prêter leur concours pour recueillir les informations. L'enquête ne porterait pas seulement sur les troubles de Kirjats et d'Aïdos, mais sur les conditions générales faites en Roumélie Orientale aux Musulmans et aux Mivrites. Votre note du $\frac{17}{29}$ Juin que je viens de recevoir m'apprend que c'est M. le Colonel Wilson qui serait chargé de cette mission.

Je me permettrai de soumettre à votre Excellence quelques observations à ce sujet. Nous sommes disposés à tout faire pour maintenir intact et inébranlable l'accord des Puissances. Mais il nous semble que l'enquête faite par un seul Gouvernement s'écarterait par elle-même de ce programme d'action collective et identique. Cette enquête en outre nous paraît prématurée. Le nom seul préjuge un blâme au Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale avant d'être certain qu'il le mérite. Des investigations faites séparément et consciencieusement nous semblent parfaitement suffisantes dans la phase actuelle de la question pour éclairer les Gouvernements, rassurer les populations, et témoigner la sollicitude impartiale de l'Europe pour tous les intérêts et les droits qui auraient été lésés.

Les Puissances seraient toujours à même de se concerter sur le résultat de ces investigations et de combiner une pression collective ultérieure sur le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale si elle était nécessitée par les dénis de justice ou des actes illégaux. Mais en attendant que cette nécessité fut reconnue l'autorité du Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale n'aurait pas été discréditée et les passions réciproques surexcitées. Par cette marche prudente un apaisement réel nous semble pouvoir être plus sûrement obtenu et nous avions la conviction que notre point de vue à ce sujet avait été apprécié par Lord Granville.

Ayez la bonté de lui demander si quelques motifs nouveaux, que nous ignorons, l'ont déterminé à modifier son opinion, et veuillez le prier, s'il est possible, de suspendre la décision sur la proposition de Mr. Goschen jusqu'à ce que la question soit élucidée par de mutuelles explications entre les Cabinets, afin que l'entente reste complète.

Nous croyons ces explications nécessaires, car pour ce qui nous concerne, il nous semblerait difficile d'adhérer à la marche des garanties au sujet des conséquences que nous appréhendons.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 607.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 533.)
My Lord,

Paris, June 25, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter in which I communicated this morning to M. de Freycinet the substance of the instruction your Lordship addressed to me yesterday evening on the subject of the proposed inquiry into the condition of the Greek and Mussulman populations in Eastern Roumelia.

I inclose also a copy of a note in reply which I have received to-night from M. de Freycinet.

Your Lordship will see that his Excellency adverts to reports made to him by the French Minister in London and the French Ambassador at Constantinople, and asks for further information respecting your Lordship's views.

I have communicated to your Lordship by telegraph the subject of M. de Freycinet's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 607.

Lord Lyons to M. de Freycinet.

Paris, June 25, 1880.

My dear President of the Council,

LORD GRANVILLE has desired me to ask your Excellency's opinion as to the course which it will now be advisable to take with regard to the proposed inquiry into the condition of the Greek and Mussulman population in Eastern Roumelia.

The Russian Government appears to object especially to the inquiry's assuming an international character. Her Majesty's Government cannot abandon the inquiry, but in view of the objections raised by Russia, they do not wish to give it an exceptional character.

Lord Granville would therefore propose to your Excellency that, instead of its being conducted jointly by England and France, each Government should undertake it separately.

He is particularly anxious to know as soon as possible whether you concur in this proposal.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 607.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 25 *Juin*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'ÉTAIS informé comme Lord Granville des objections très-fortes élevées par la Russie contre le projet d'enquête collective sur la situation des populations Musulmanes et Grecques en Roumélie Orientale, suggéré, il y a quelque temps, par Mr. Goschen. Le Ministre de France à Londres, à qui j'ai fait part de cette information, m'a répondu que le Gouvernement de la Reine renonçait à donner aucun caractère international à l'enquête proposée, et qu'il chargeait le Colonel Wilson de la poursuivre au nom de l'Angleterre seule.

D'autre part, notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople me mandait dernièrement qu'en présence de la difficulté d'obtenir l'adhésion de toutes les Puissances au projet d'enquête, Mr. Goschen considérait comme préférable pour l'Angleterre de la conduire exclusivement en son propre nom, bien que nous eussions offert de nous joindre à elle, parce que de la part de l'Angleterre cette initiative isolée se justifierait par bien des raisons spéciales tandis que le concours de deux Puissances seulement semblerait accuser trop ouvertement un désaccord de la part des autres.

D'après ces indications, j'ai fait savoir à M. Tissot ce matin, avant d'avoir reçu la lettre de votre Excellence, qu'il n'avait plus à s'associer à l'enquête de Roumélie Orientale.

Vous voulez bien m'écrire maintenant que la France et l'Angleterre pourraient entreprendre l'enquête séparément et vous me demandez si j'adhère à cette proposition. Avant de répondre à cet égard d'une manière définitive je tiendrais à être assuré si Lord Granville, qui avait indiqué au Comte de Montebello son désir de laisser Mr. Goschen décider sur les lieux les questions relatives à l'enquête, ne partage pas le sentiment de l'Ambassadeur de la Reine à Constantinople, touchant les inconvénients d'une enquête conduite par deux Puissances seulement, ou si au contraire il pense que l'action simultanée de la France et de l'Angleterre présenterait dans cette affaire des avantages réels.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 608.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)

Janina, June 28, 1880.

I AM leaving for Arta to-morrow morning. I send by next mail a copy of a telegram sent by brother of Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and an Aide-de-camp

of the Sultan to the Albanian leaders here, directing them to telegraph to the Powers that they will resist to the last any encroachment on Albanian territory.

No. 609.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28, 9 P.M.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, June 28, 1880, 7 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE considers that the decisions of the Conference should be submitted to Turkey and Greece by identic notes from the Representatives of the Powers transmitting the final Protocol of the Conference.

He suggests that the terms of this note should be settled by the Conference, and that it should contain an intimation that "the Government of Great Britain asks" (the French word being "demande") "from the Porte or Greece the acceptation of the line of frontier upon which the Mediating Powers assembled in Conference have unanimously agreed, as conformable to the spirit and letter of the Treaty of Berlin and of the 13th Protocol."

If a better word than "demande" can be substituted, Baron Haymerle would have no objection to adopt it; but while he thinks that it would hardly be sufficient only to recommend the decision of the Conference to the Porte and Greece as suggested in your Lordship's telegram to Lord Odo Russell of the 23rd, he would not, on the other hand, wish to employ a term implying a direct menace of force.

If there is any other point upon which your Lordship wishes for more precise information of his views, he would be glad to be informed.

No. 610.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28, 10 P.M.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, June 28, 1880, 7·50 P.M.

M. DE GIERS informs me that, in reply to Novikow's request for instructions about Dulcigno, he has desired him to adhere to the line of action proposed by Goschen and his other colleagues.

No. 611.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I SAW the German Ambassador yesterday, and took the opportunity of offering through him to Prince Bismarck and to Prince Hohenlohe the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for their action in regard to the Greek frontier. I said that we felt they had rendered an important service to Europe in promoting a cordial agreement between the Powers upon this question.

We went on to discuss the method of presenting to the Porte the conclusions arrived at by the Conference, and the reception which those conclusions were likely to meet at the hands of the Sultan and his Ministers.

I told Count Münster that I heard accounts from Constantinople of considerable military preparations, as if resistance were intended, or at least contemplated. On the other hand, Captain Sale, the British Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier, who had been sent to Janina on an unofficial tour, to collect geographical and ethnographical information, had been received by the population of Janina and of the country between the coast and that town with a sort of ovation, under the impression that he had been appointed to mark out the frontier. Captain Sale had now been recalled, partly because the Turkish authorities had objected to his presence in the country, and partly because his information would now be too late to assist the Conference in its discussions; but the occurrence I had mentioned seem to show that the danger of serious opposition to the transfer by the actual inhabitants of the districts proposed to be ceded in Epirus was less than had been supposed, whatever may be the difficulties

excited either by the Turkish Government, or by the Albanians who live beyond the frontier of those districts.

I mentioned that in a recent conversation with the Russian Ambassador his Excellency had spoken to me unofficially of the measures that might be taken in the event of coercion being resolved upon, and that he had gone so far as to say that he thought the Russian Government would be ready to lend 20,000 men to be landed in Greece, if England would supply the transport. I had, however, refrained from discussing the question with Prince Lobanow.

I said, in conclusion, that I hoped it might be possible, if the Powers showed a united and determined front, to attain a settlement of the question in accordance with their views, without the necessity of having recourse to menace or the employment of force. But I did not think it possible that, after all the steps that had been taken, the Governments who were parties to the negotiations should allow their decision to be disregarded or set at nought by the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 612.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 793.) *Foreign Office, June 28, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, in reply to your despatch No. 526 of the 25th instant, that I approve of your having abstained from speaking to M. de Freycinet upon the subject of the compromise suggested by Prince Hohenlohe in the matter of the Greek frontier line.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 613.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

Foreign Office, June 28, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of the form proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Government for the declaration by which the Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin should give their formal sanction to the various Acts of Delimitation drawn up under the Treaty.

In reply to the inquiry your Excellency makes on behalf of the Russian Government as to the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the mode of proceeding proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Government, I have the honour to state that the form of declaration was communicated to me a short time since by Count Károlyi, and that I informed his Excellency that if the other Governments concerned agreed to it, Her Majesty's Government would also give their assent to the form proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 614.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

E (No. 291.) *Philippopoli, June 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Governor-General, Aleko Pasha, called at the Consulate to-day to return the official visit I had paid him on my arrival here.

His Excellency inquired whether I had received a copy of the Report drawn up by the Commission appointed by him to inquire into the outrages committed in the district of Kirdjali.

I replied that several copies had been sent me, and that I had forwarded one of them to your Lordship.

Aleko Pasha then proceeded to explain the causes which had led to the disturbances in that district, but as the account given by his Excellency in every way corresponds with

that contained in the opening pages of the Report inclosed in my No. 289 of the 11th instant, your Lordship, I am sure, will think it unnecessary for me to repeat it. I may mention, however, that the Governor-General, while fully acknowledging the services so promptly rendered by Réouf Pasha for the pacification of the disturbed district, dwelt at some length on the encouragement proved in the Report to have been given to the insurrectionary movement by agitators in Adrianople.

His Excellency then inquired what impression the Report had made upon me. I replied that, in the absence of the documents and depositions attached to the Report, which, I was told, were very voluminous, it would be premature on my part to offer an opinion, but that I had learnt with regret that few, if any, of the perpetrators of the graver outrages had been discovered.

"Who can in reality say," remarked his Excellency, "that these outrages were not committed by the Bashi-Bazouks who invaded the district?"

I answered that it appeared to me, from the evidence now furnished, that that view could no longer be entertained, as it had been clearly shown, by medical testimony, that several of the victims had received bayonet wounds.

At any rate, replied the Governor-General, it could not be said that the Roumelian Government had not taken immediate and effective steps to discover the truth, and, in illustration of the promptitude it had throughout shown in the matter, he instanced the fact that even before the Report had been read by the Permanent Committee, that body had not only voted, but had caused to be remitted to Haskeuï for distribution among the sufferers, £T. 2,000 out of the sum of £T. 5,000 recommended by the Commission as a proper indemnity for their misfortunes.

As regards the rumours which it appeared had been circulating with respect to the alleged systematic ill-treatment of the Turkish population of the province, they were founded, he maintained, entirely on isolated incidents, which were inevitable after the events that had taken place. He held that, considering the sufferings to which the Bulgarians had been long subjected at the hands of the Turks, and the state in which Eastern Roumelia had been left at the close of the late war, the position of the Turkish population was, on the whole, far from discouraging.

He would like to know what instances could be quoted in proof of such oppression.

I remarked that I much feared that Kirdjali and Aïdos had already afforded two very sad examples in point.

"Those, of course, excepted," replied the Governor-General; "such incidents will happen as long as the frontiers of the province are infested by Bashi-Bazouks and brigands.

I said I trusted his Excellency did not mean that there was any likelihood of a repetition of such horrible acts as had been committed at Kirdjali. Aleko Pasha thereupon assured me that there was no fear of anything of this kind happening again, as care would be taken in future not to employ the militia on such missions.

The Governor-General then inquired what impression the general state of affairs in the province had made upon me. I replied that, as I had only been here a few days, I did not feel justified in hazarding an opinion, but I had been very sorry to find that the relations between the Bulgarians and the other nationalities were so bitter. I had also much regretted, I observed, to learn from the Turks here with whom I had had the opportunity of speaking that, owing to the disadvantage at which they alleged they were placed by the action of the Bulgarian majority, the more unfortunate of their number were gradually losing hope, and were daily becoming more and more impressed with the belief that the Bulgarians were bent on forcing them to leave the country. I said I felt sure his Excellency's spirit of justice would lead him to do all in his power to prevent such an enervating impression taking root in the mind of the Mussulman population. Surely, I added, the energies of all were required for the development of the province, and that it was in the interests of the Bulgarians themselves that a portion of the Turkish race should remain to contribute by their industry to the prosperity of the country and the general welfare of all.

Aleko Pasha maintained that the Mussulmans were not so dissatisfied with their position in the province as reported. As regards his own attitude towards them, it had been a just and benevolent one. As an example, he quoted the measures he had taken to secure to the returning refugees their lands and property, saying that, on learning last autumn that disputes were continually taking place owing to the refusal of the Bulgarian occupants to deliver up the lands they had been cultivating during the absence of the owners, unless an indemnity was given them for the money they had expended in improvements, he had issued an order directing the lands at once to be restored, and enjoining the Bulgarians to seek, through the medium of the Law Courts, any redress they might consider

themselves entitled to. As for the Greeks, it was not his fault that they held no important share in the Government. There was no one amongst them possessing such special qualities as would justify the appointment to a Directorship of a member of so small a minority.

In the absence of instructions from your Lordship, and as my information on the subject was as yet imperfect, I thought it better not to prolong the discussion.

Before his Excellency left, however, I considered it my duty to express a hope that the persons proved by the Commission to have been implicated in the Kirdjali outrages would be severely punished.

In reply, Alcko Pasha stated that three out of the four Russian officers had already been dismissed from the service—a fact which he had caused to be officially announced to the Russian Consulate here, and that the trial of the remainder, with the exception of Captain Yacheroff, would commence at Haskeui as soon as the preliminary trial ("instruction") now going on had ended.

In conclusion, his Excellency asked whether it was in reality the intention of Her Majesty's Government to appoint some one to inquire further into these matters. I replied that I had received no definite information on the subject, but that I believed that such a proposal was under consideration.

"For my part," observed the Governor-General, "I would welcome the arrival here of a Commission."

The extracts from the "Maritza" and "Philippoupolis," which I have the honour to inclose herewith, will pretty accurately furnish your Lordship with the views taken by the Bulgarian and Greek communities of this town with regard to the Kirdjali Report.

I may also state that the Austrian and Greek Consuls, although they consider that full light has not yet been thrown on this sad affair, and condemn the want of precision in the conclusions of the Report, seem to think that the Commission, on the whole, has not been entirely unsuccessful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 614.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June 7/19, 1880.

Plovdiv, le 7/19 Juin.

PLUS on étudie le Rapport de la Commission du Kirdjali plus on acquiert la conviction que la Commission a voulu faire preuve d'un esprit d'impartialité qui fût de nature à désarmer toute critique malveillante. Nous comprenons très-bien les motifs de MM. les Commissaires, et nous ne pouvons que les approuver; mais nous craignons fort que le public de cette province, et les amis de l'ordre et de la tranquillité en général, ne trouvent que la Commission, qui a été très-impartiale au sujet des méfaits commis par quelques miliciens, n'ait pas été assez sévère envers les fauteurs Musulmans de l'insurrection. Ainsi dans la liste des personnes qu'elle fait poursuivre par la justice, et dont nous publions les noms aujourd'hui, nous ne trouvons pas les Mollah Durham, les Déli Ibrahim, et les auteurs perturbateurs qui, d'après la Commission elle-même, auraient pris une part très-active dans l'organisation de la grave révolte qui effraya le Bailli Musulman de Kirdjali, et nécessita l'entrée de la milice. La Commission était instituée pour faire une enquête sur tous les événements du Kirdjali: elle aurait dû, par conséquent, donner ses conclusions sur la culpabilité de ceux qui avaient par leur révolte provoqué l'action armée de la milice, non moins que sur le caractère délictueux des actes attribués aux miliciens. S'il est dans l'intérêt public de punir ces actes, nous croyons qu'il est dans l'intérêt public d'être non moins sévère envers ces ex-Bachi-Bozouks qui, par leur résistance armée à Babalar, ont exaspéré la milice et l'ont poussée aux méfaits que nous avons été les premiers à déplorer.

Mais quoique la Commission ne fasse pas figurer les fauteurs des troubles parmi les coupables qu'elle fait poursuivre par la justice, comme elle établit, dans la première partie de son travail, leur culpabilité, nous espérons que leur ministère public saisira nos Tribunaux de leur procès aussi. C'est la seule manière de prouver que la justice est égale pour tous ici, et que nos autorités ne se laissent intimider, dans l'accomplissement de leur devoir, par aucune pression intérieure ou extérieure.

Personne, croyons-nous, même dans l'intérieur de cette province, ne voudra excuser les méfaits imputés à nos miliciens. Mais tous les gens de cœur et d'esprit

trouveront souverainement injuste qu'on aille tirer de ces méfaits la conclusion que les Bulgares sont incapables d'oublier les leçons qu'un esclavage abject de cinq siècles leur a enseignées et de se pénétrer des grands principes qui font l'honneur de notre siècle. L'histoire moderne des peuples de l'Orient nous montre maint exemple des pareils actes d'indiscipline commis pendant des époques où les passions l'emportent sur toute considération d'humanité et de bonne politique. Nous ne citerons pas des faits qui sont encore présents à la mémoire de tous nos lecteurs; nous irons un peu plus loin. On parle souvent de la civilisation des Grecs, mais on oublie les actes de barbarie au prix desquels les Grecs modernes ont reconquis leur liberté et la possibilité de développer cette civilisation. Et pourtant il est bien facile d'avoir recours aux ouvrages de l'Allemand Gervinus et du Grec Tricoupi pour voir si, pendant la période de sept ans que la nation Grecque s'émancipait graduellement du joug Ottoman, elle avait pu oublier tous ces principes Turcs dont l'influence se fait sentir dans les actes commis par quelques Bulgares libérés depuis trois ans. Qu'on lise les passages de ces deux historiens de l'émancipation Grecque sur la prise de Tripolitza, et on verra que les accusations que les Grecs sont si prompts à nous prodiguer ne méritent pas de fixer l'attention des gens sérieux. Comme Gervinus peut être taxé de partialité, nous citerons Tricoupi: "Le jour de la prise de la capitale du Péloponèse," dit l'historien national, "fut un jour de destruction, d'incendie, de pillage, et de sang. Hommes, femmes, enfants, tous périrent, les uns égorgés, les autres jetés dans les flammes qui s'élevèrent au milieu de la ville, d'autres écrasés sous les toits et les planchers des maisons embrasées; la soif de la vengeance anéantit la voix de la nature. Dans les rues, sur les places, on n'entendait que coups de coûteau, coups de feu, fracas de maisons s'écroulant au milieu des flammes, frémissements de colère, cris de mort. . . . Ces scènes durèrent trois jours. Le troisième, on mit à mort, en dehors de la ville, ceux que la faim et la soif en avaient chassés avant qu'elle fut prise."

Voilà des faits autrement féroces, nous semble-t-il, que ceux qui sont relevés dans le Rapport de la Commission du Kirdjali. Nous le répétons, en les citant nous n'avons aucune intention de disculper ceux qui, pendant la répression des troubles du Kirdjali, se sont laissés aller à des excès déplorables. Nous voulons seulement dire que tous ceux qui ont été sous le régime corrupteur que nous avons subi pendant une période cinq fois séculaire ont imbibé des idées et contracté des habitudes que le temps seul peut effacer. Quand on compare les Bulgares aux autres peuples Chrétiens de l'Orient on ne doit pas oublier que ces derniers ont été émancipés il y a cinquante ans, tandis que les premiers ne jouissent d'un régime autonome que depuis un an. Il est à regretter que pendant le commencement de ce régime les forces armées de cette province aient surtout souffert. Dans notre dernier numéro, nous avons expliqué comment nos jeunes soldats n'ont pas pu voir développer et discipliner les qualités dont, de l'aveu de tous les gens impartiaux, ils sont doués. Dès le commencement, notre milice et notre gendarmerie, dont l'organisation avait été élaborée par la Commission Européenne et dont la direction avait été confiée à un étranger, avaient été négligées au point de devenir un danger plutôt qu'une garantie pour le pays. Depuis lors, la direction de nos forces armées a été le département le plus largement doté par l'Assemblée Provinciale et qui a eu le concours du plus grand nombre d'employés étrangers. Tous les autres départements ont relativement un nombre très-restreint de fonctionnaires étrangers: pourtant aucun d'entre eux n'a suscité tant d'embarras à notre Gouvernement et n'a causé tant de sacrifices à la province que la direction de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Nous sommes sûrs que le Général Streeker et les officiers étrangers qui l'entourent comprendront qu'il est souverainement injuste que le pays souffre et que l'honneur de notre peuple soit souillé par le fait de fautes et de négligences dont il n'est pas responsable, et qu'ils redoubleront d'efforts pour rétablir la discipline si fortement ébranlée par la faiblesse criminelle du Général Vitalis.

Inclosure 2 in No. 614.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of June 7/19, 1880.

LE Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête pour les affaires de Kirdjali est prêt et va être remis demain ou après demain à MM. les Consuls des Puissances Européennes en notre ville. A ce que nous apprenons ce document, qui corrobore les renseignements que nous avions dans le temps donnés à propos de ces tristes événements, conclut qu'il y matière à poursuite pénale contre trente-cinq personnes tant militaires

que membres des Sociétés de Gymnastique. Ces malfaiteurs doivent être sévèrement punis. Il y a matière à regretter qu'on ait pu mettre la main sur tous les forçats. Si maintenant on prend en considération les difficultés que la Commission a eu à vaincre, on peut dire qu'elle s'est consciencieusement acquittée de sa tâche. Nous sommes heureux pour le résultat obtenu et d'autant plus qu'il est une réponse éclatante aux assertions mensongères de nos confrères la "Maritza" et le "Narodni Glass," qui, comme on se le rappelle, avaient fait chorus commun pour couvrir les méfaits de Kirdjali ou plutôt pour accuser les Grecs et les Turcs de les avoir perpétrés.

No. 615.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 292. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, June 16, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Michell's despatch No. 272 of the 29th May, I have the honour to inclose herewith a paragraph extracted from the "Philippopolis," from which your Lordship will perceive that, as first constituted by the Governor-General, the Aïdos Commission consisted of four Bulgarians, two Turks, an Hungarian, a Czech, and Colonel Borthwick—in all nine members. Having been informed that the Commission had been reduced to five members, I took the opportunity of a visit from M. Baraczi, the Private Secretary of the Governor-General, and an Hungarian by birth, to inquire of him the reasons for this sudden change, and whether he himself still continued to form one of the Commission.

In reply, M. Baraczi informed me that, owing to a bad attack of dysentery, from which he had been suffering for some time, he had requested the Governor-General to relieve him of this duty.

Fancying, however, from his manner that he was concealing the true reason of his resignation, I ventured to inquire whether, had his health permitted it, he would have taken part in the inquiry.

He replied somewhat evasively at first, but finally proceeded to inform me that, besides the fact of his illness, which now in any case would prevent his undertaking so fatiguing a task, he had been displeased at the interference on the part of several of the members of the Permanent Committee in the selection the Governor-General had made. He knew besides that many Bulgarians had been adverse to his being appointed, as they were aware he had already visited the district of the outrages and had furnished the Governor-General with a Report incriminating a number of their compatriots. When he had conversed with them on the subject, they had shown an inclination to deride the information and evidence he had obtained, and had spoken of the villages destroyed as groups of huts.

He had remarked, as he thought, an intention on the part of these Bulgarians to influence by the choice of its members the ultimate verdict of the Commission, and to underrate the importance of what had taken place.

In spite, therefore, of his ill-health he had thought it his duty, when appealed to by the Governor-General, to consent to take a part in it, knowing that the evidence he had already collected and his knowledge of the locality and the people would greatly aid the Commission in arriving at the truth. When, however, he learnt that, owing to the objection raised by the Permanent Committee as to the expense which would be occasioned by the appointment of so large a number, the Commission had been reduced to five, he had become disgusted and had resigned.

As M. Baraczi is an excellent linguist, and is spoken of by every one here as a very just and able man, it is much to be regretted that he is no longer to take part in the Commission. I am told that a Bulgarian of the name of Bogoeff has been nominated in his place, and that the other members at present consist of Zlataroff, Matheoff, also Bulgarians, Colonel Borthwick, and Pehlivan-Oglou, a Turk, reputed to be influenced by Bulgarian sympathies.

In conversation with Bulgarians on the subject I have not failed to point out the importance in their interests that a strong European element should be present in the Commission in order that they might avoid exposing themselves to an after-charge of having attempted to conceal the true facts, and I have also spoken to the Governor-General in the same sense. I learnt, however, yesterday evening that the Commission, consisting

of the above-mentioned members, had already set out, and that they were expected to reach Bourgas to-day, where Colonel Borthwick was to meet them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 615.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of $\frac{\text{June 31}}{\text{June 12}}$, 1880.

LA Commission qui se rendra à Aedos pour faire une enquête sur les dernières cruautés que les Bulgares ont commises en cette localité, se compose de M. Zlataroff, comme Président, et de MM. le Colonel Borthwick, G. Baraczi, le Capitaine Philoff, Mratchek, Procureur du Département de Bourgas, Boghoeff, Juge d'Instruction de Bourgas, Ahmet Pechlivanoglou, Ahmet Effendi, et P. Mateoff, comme membres.

Nous espérons que la Commission, pénétrée de la gravité de sa mission, tâchera de s'acquitter consciencieusement de ses devoirs. Nous sommes aussi sûrs qu'aucune considération particulière ne s'interposera pour arrêter la main de la loi qui doit frapper les auteurs de ces crimes. Les cruautés qui ont été commises à Aedos surpassent démesurément celles de Kirdjali, ce qui fait que le travail de la Commission sera plus compliqué et plus difficile. Un obstacle devant lequel se heurteront les efforts de la Commission sera encore celui-ci: La plupart des malfaiteurs, tant miliciens que simples particuliers, appartenant à la Principauté voisine, il sera sans doute difficile pour ne pas dire impossible de découvrir leurs traces pour leur faire subir la punition qu'il méritent. Aussi craignons-nous que cette circonstance ne soit une grande entrave à l'action de la justice. C'est donc le cas de rappeler à notre Gouvernement qu'il est de son devoir impérieux de s'entendre immédiatement avec le Gouvernement de Sophia pour l'obliger et l'inviter, en tant qu'il le concerne, de faciliter la tâche de la Commission d'Enquête. Tout retardement ou hésitation à accorder sa coopération aurait des conséquences très-funestes tant pour cette province que la Principauté voisine, car, comme il n'est pas besoin de le dire, l'Europe, qui a été dégoûtée de voir les Bulgares à peine appelés à la liberté, débuter par des excès abominables, veut et entend que justice en soit faite.

No 616.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 293.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, June* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have received from M. Tonjeroff, Bulgarian Protestant Pastor in this town, relative to the condition of the Bulgarian communities in the neighbourhood of Nevrokop and Razlog.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 616.

M. Tonjeroff to Mr. Stephen.

Dear Sir, *Philippopoli, June* 14, 1880.

THE news received last night from Macedonia make us heart-sick.

The Turkish bands of Bashi-Bazouks, headed by Mustapha Tchaouche, who were running riot around Nevrokop, have at last reached the district of Razlog. They, together with the regular Turkish army, are repeating the same cruelties in this place; also many of the peaceful Bulgarian peasants have been fearfully beaten and robbed. Others have been brought from the work of their fields, called rebels, outraged most painfully, and thrown into prison.

They are torturing most unmercifully the Protestant population of Razlog, who by all parties are known as the most inoffensive and peaceful people. Some of them have been beaten almost to death, and now, covered with wounds, are lying in bed. Others, after having been beaten, were carried and thrown into prison at Melnnik.

Last Saturday the news reached us that this Turkish band, after entering Dobrinishte,

beating, outraging, and robbing most of the people, they took some of them, hung them by their feet, and put burning straw under their heads.

This morning we heard from faithful sources that robbers entered the Bulgarian village of Neelobrensko, tortured a sick man for his money, but when the sufferers complained, the Government soldiers were sent them, who beat them most fearfully.

There are now in Razlog district 15,000 Bulgarians. They are surrounded like a flock of sheep by the Bashi-Bazouks and the regular army. The sufferings of this people cannot be told; language and pen fails. Every brutal cruelty, that is too bad to be written, is practised there without any restraint.

Is there no one to pity them? no one to help them? Cannot mighty Europe find Representatives like those she has in Eastern Roumelia who will go at the place of suffering themselves and investigate in the matter?

Dear Sir, if anything can be done to stop this cruel butchery, it must be done at once, if not, please make some way for them to escape, and let them not be cut off wholesale.

Yours truly,
(Signed) G. A. TONJEROFF.

No. 617.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 294.) *Philippopoli, June 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

I WAS informed a few days ago that the Eastern Roumelian Government, having applied to the Bank of Sophia for a loan in order to meet the payment to the Ottoman Government of the first instalment of the tribute, which fell due on the 14th instant, a sum of £T. 40,000 had been advanced by that bank, bearing an interest of 6 per cent.

The Governor-General informed me this evening that he had written to-day to the Ottoman Government, announcing that the sum due to it was now at its disposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 618.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 295.) *Philippopoli, June 19, 1880.*

My Lord,

HAVING received a telegram yesterday evening from Mr. Goschen stating that his Excellency had learnt that the European element in the Commission about to proceed to the Aïdos Balkans had been eliminated, and requesting me to furnish him with the reasons and facts of the case, I called upon the Governor-General. Your Lordship will have seen by my despatch No. 292 of the 16th instant that I had already been informed of the principal causes which had produced the change in the list of the members of the Commission, and you will notice that the explanation that Aleko Pasha gave, although generally agreeing with that with which M. Baraczi had already furnished me, differed considerably in its drift.

The Governor-General informed me that nine members had first been appointed, namely, four Bulgarians, two Turks, and three Europeans, but that, on submitting the names to the Permanent Committee, objection had been made to the expense which, it was said, so large a Commission would occasion. He had, therefore, reduced the number to five. Among these, previously, was M. Baraczi, his Hungarian Secretary, but this gentleman, much to his Excellency's disappointment, had, owing to bad health, been obliged to resign. He believed, he added, that M. Mrachek, Austrian Procureur of Bourgas, had not been included among the members finally appointed. His Excellency then proceeded to dwell on the many difficulties he had encountered in the nomination of this Commission, and maintained that the appointment of Colonel Borthwick alone was a sufficient proof that there had been no intention on his part of excluding an European element from the Commission. He had now learnt, he said, that Colonel Borthwick refused to act because M. Baraczi had resigned, a step which he considered entirely uncalled for. It was not his fault that M. Baraczi was unable to proceed. He had only the power of nominating members, not of curing them. If Colonel Borthwick should

disagree with the decisions of the Commission, or consider that the truth had not been arrived at, he could record his protest, and state his views.

I replied that I had no information regarding Colonel Borthwick's reasons for resigning, but that I felt sure that his Excellency would seize the importance, in the interests of the Bulgarians themselves, that no ground should be given for it afterwards to be said that there had been inequality in the formation of the Commission.

Aleko Pasha replied that he had from the first been particularly anxious that an European element should be present during the inquiry, and it was on that account that he had appointed Colonel Borthwick, whose position, he considered, would add much weight to the Report. However, if I wished it he would reappoint M. Mrachek, but should he do so, could I promise him that Colonel Borthwick would withdraw his resignation? I answered that this was a matter which personally concerned Colonel Borthwick, but that probably he would be glad to find appointed to the Commission a gentleman whose co-operation in the inquiry was so much to be desired. Aleko Pasha then promised to telegraph to Bourgas reappointing M. Mrachek. I then asked whether his Excellency could not now nominate some other European in the place of M. Baraczi, in order that the Commission might still more correspond in its members to its original formation.

He said he would make inquiries, and suggested Colonel Toustain, a French Colonel in the militia, who has lately taken part in the Kirdjali Commission, adding, however, that he feared General Strecker would not be able to spare him. Later in the evening I called on M. Baraczi, who told me that, owing to his ailment having considerably increased, he was more than ever unable to undertake such an arduous labour. He said, however, that he had given M. Zhatzoff, who was to preside over the Commission, a copy of the notes he had taken during his late visit to the Aïdos Balkans as a guide for it; but he gave me a list of some of the persons distinctly proved to have committed some of the excesses, begging me to forward it to Colonel Borthwick, with the request that he would compromise as little as possible the two Turks, Ismaïl and Ibrahim, as they were certain to incur the vengeance of the Bulgarians were it known that they were giving evidence against them.

I have sent this list, copy of which is herewith inclosed, to Colonel Borthwick, suggesting that he should communicate it to M. Mrachek, should the former still persist in resigning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above I am informed by the Governor-General that there is no other European in the service of the Government whom he can now conveniently send, but that in the event of Colonel Borthwick resigning he will insist on Colonel Toustain taking his place.

A. C. S.

Inclosure in No. 618.

List of Names of Individuals guilty of Aïdos Excesses.

I STRONGLY recommend that both the Prefect of Bourgas and the Bailli of Aukhialis be cited before the Commission and severely examined concerning their conduct in the Aïdos affair, as well as with reference to the charges they set forth against one another.

Ismaïl, son of Ibrahim, and Yakoob, son of Ismaïl of Kairak,* two Turks, recognized among those who attacked the Turks before Mesimvria. Yovan, son of Christo, called also Kior Yovan, Yanni, son of Sibes, and Jelez, son of Yovan; all three inhabitants of Keehla-Déré.

Among those who attacked the Turks near Eminé:—

1. Two swineherds of Brakaloff, by the names of Christo and Todoro. (The latter is in prison at Bourgas.)

2. Stoyan Muskayan and Yovan, son of the parson ("gospodeen"); both of Yeni-Keui.

3. Erbetchli Yanni, of Sovdjovlov (Golitza); at present miller of the mill at Yeni-Keui.

* They probably are at Mesimvria at present.

4. The "kooroojov" and the shepherd; then Ilie; the former "bákkal" (grover) of Khodja-Keui. (All three live at Gueuzeké.)

5. Goron, son of Groza, the son of Kyssa Todor, the son of Chinguené Petré, of Alchak-Déré. (The two latter set Khodja-Keui on fire.)

No. 619.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 63.)

Therapia, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk reporting the arrival of large quantities of arms at that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 619.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, June 16, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the last two months a large quantity of arms, consisting of 60,000 rifles of various systems, have been imported here from Rheni.

A large portion of these are Chassepôts; the remainder Remington and Berdan.

In addition to the above, a quantity of arms have been found at Plevna and brought here, consisting of three Krupp cannons and 8,000 rifles, percussion muzzle-loaders.

At present a large quantity of these importations is lying at the wharf; the rest have been taken to Levan Tabia, which, as I have already mentioned, was being converted into an arsenal. I propose to visit this place on an early occasion.

I am informed that the largest depôt of arms and ammunition in the Principality is at Rasgrad, and that it is intended to transport it here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 620.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 26.)

Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose a copy of a memorandum by Colonel Synge on certain points connected with the Government of Macedonia, on which I asked for his opinion, owing to his local knowledge, which is very great.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 620.

Colonel Synge to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

Therapia, June 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you such information as I can afford on the subjects required:—

1. The proper unit of Local Government.

Under the present system of Government, every village, and each mahallé, or parish, of the towns, has, or ought to have, a Mukhtar, or Khodja-bashi, whose functions are somewhat similar to those of the "Cotwal" of the Indian village. Each village has also a "Medjliss," or Council of Elders, and a "Pretorius," or crier. The Mukhtar and Pretorius are remunerated for their services by the inhabitants, whose

servants they are. To place the Mukhtar on the footing of the Indian Cotwal, and make him a responsible paid servant of the Government, would form the simplest unit of Local Government, and would eventually enable the district centres of Government to be placed at greater distances from each other, but at present, owing to the want of roads, bridges, and the general difficulties of movement, it would be regarded as hardship were the distances to be traversed to arrive at the centres of Government increased.

Although in the larger independent villages, owing to the remuneration being more considerable, the Mukhtar is generally a personage of importance, the great drawback in the present system arises from the supineness of the villagers themselves, who usually select as Mukhtar one of their number too idle to work at his vocation. By the Mukhtar becoming, instead of a village servant, a Government official, receiving pay, this would soon be rectified, and by his duties and responsibilities being judiciously defined and progressively increased; moreover, he being elected by the inhabitants themselves, every denomination would be represented by an official of its own selection, and for local purposes a Medjliss, or Council of the Mukhtars, might be beneficially employed. The proximity of a police officer, to whom all criminal offences should be directly reported, would materially assist the public welfare.

Of course, time must elapse before the Mukhtar can develop into an efficient public officer, but, as the unit of Local Government, he, assisted by the village Council of Elders, would represent the population, and the system, as grafted on to the present one, would have the advantage of being easily understood by the people.

2. The Kutzo-Wallachs, their political and religious ideas.

The Vlachs of Macedonia, speaking their own language, and separated from the rest of the population by their habits and customs, were becoming assimilated to the Greeks by education and similarity of political ideas; but recently a strong inclination to establish their individuality of race has developed itself among them, shown by the introduction of the Roumanian language into their schools, and an effort, violently opposed by the Greek Church, to establish their own clergy.

A thrifty race and industrious in their own callings, they mostly spend their winters on the plains and follow their flocks to the hills in the summer. Rarely they occupy considerable towns, as Klissura, Livadia, &c.

3. The line of division between the Albanian and other races.

The following sketch of the interests of the Albanians in the contiguous provinces will explain the difficulty of defining a line of division between them and the other races:—

Briefly stated, the various races of Macedonia may be divided thus:—The Mahommedan population furnishes the official class, the large landed proprietors, and the cultivators of their own village lands; commerce is in the hands of the Greeks and Jews; Bulgarians, and in smaller numbers Greeks, occupy themselves with agricultural operations, forming the class of tenant-farmers on the métayer system. Vlachs are the flockmasters and shepherds, as well as the carriers of the country; and migratory Albanians, both Christian and Mahommedan, furnish the skilled labourers of the province, the latter occupying also all places of trust, such as guardians, farm stewards, and such like.

The inhabitants of Albania are largely dependent on the neighbouring provinces for their supplies, and the mountainous parts of their country being unable to supply employment for or support in idleness the surplus population, there is in consequence a large migration of the male population, many of whom work in the neighbouring provinces during the six winter months, returning to their homes for the summer; but a large portion also go for a term of years to more distant places, only returning to their homes at long intervals with their carefully-hoarded earnings. Largely dependent on their flocks, in the purchase of which their savings are invested, they cannot but regard any changes of territory which affect their interests as of vital importance, for the mountains on which in summer they pasture their numerous flocks being in winter covered deeply with snow, they seek pasturage during those months on the plains of Thessaly and Macedonia.

In the year 1878 the sheep-tax paid at Larissa amounted to 7,000,000 piastres, representing more than 1,500,000 sheep pasturing in that district alone, of which a great portion were owned in Albania.

Only by defining the boundaries according to their actual vilayets could the limits of the Albanian races be marked; and the nature of their country is such, from its

inability to support its population, as to place in the hands of the inhabitants of the contiguous provinces, supposing these were sufficiently strong, the fortunes of the hardiest and most warlike race in European Turkey.

4. The proportions of the Greek, Bulgar, and Turkish populations.

The difficulties of defining the various populations in Macedonia arise chiefly from the absence of any official classification of the Christian races, and from the ecclesiastical statistics claiming as Greeks all who recognise the Greek Patriarch.

Annexed are the statistics* of the male population of the cazas of the four sandjaks forming the Province of Macedonia or Vilayet of Salonica in 1878. They were collected by me from the most reliable materials obtainable. Probably in another generation the energy of the Greek Educational Societies would have been rewarded by the complete Hellenisation of the Bulgarophone Greeks, as those Bulgars recognizing the Patriarch are termed. Strenuous efforts will undoubtedly be made to increase the influence and power of the Exarch, with a view to neutralizing such action. The larger number of the Bulgarian race in Macedonia is under the Patriarchate, and derives benefit from the admirable educational system. But since 1878 probably more recognize the Exarchate than are shown in the return.

5. The conduct of the Turkish authorities in regard to the "Commission Spéciale," under Article XXIII.

Having had no opportunities of observing the conduct of the Turkish authorities in regard to the "Commission Spéciale," I can only state that, in the rural districts with which I am best acquainted, nothing whatever was known about it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. SYNGE.

No. 621.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 27.)

Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

AS I have already informed your Lordship by telegraph, the first official meeting of the Commission was held on Thursday last, the 17th instant, at Galata Serai.

On the motion of M. Vernoni, the Italian Representative, who was a member of the Commission when it sat at Philippopoli, the Ottoman Commissioner, Assim Pasha, was elected President, as being the Representative of the territorial Power of the place where the Commission was assembled.

The bureau having been constituted, the German Commissioner, also an old member of the Commission, moved that the decisions of the majority should be binding, and pointed out that this had been the practice of the Commission at its last sittings in 1879, when acting in a "consultative" capacity in regard to the administration of Eastern Roumelia, as it now was in regard to the proposed reforms. The Turkish Commissioner objected to this proposition, and claimed unanimity as a necessary condition of the decisions of the Commission; he would, however, undertake that a unanimous decision should be binding on the Porte. I replied to this that such an undertaking was worthless, as Article XXIII said nothing about it, but, on the contrary, left the Porte free to accept or reject the decisions of the Commission, of course, at its own peril in the event of rejection. It was also, I said, clear that if no decision was to be arrived at, except unanimously, the Ottoman Representatives would have a veto on our proceedings. This had clearly not been the intention of the Berlin Congress. The Ottoman Commissioners, as representing their Government, were present by the courtesy of Europe to defend the "Projet de Loi" on which the Commission was to give its opinion. It never was intended to put it in their power to veto the proceedings, as in that case there was no practical reason why the Commission should have been summoned at all. The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner expressed a decided agreement with this view, and after some further discussion the Ottoman Commissioner withdrew his opposition.

The Ottoman Commissioner next informed us that the next meeting of the Commission, which he hoped would be on Monday, the 21st instant, he would present interleaved copies of one-half of the new "Projet de Loi," showing the amendments proposed by the local Commissions, and distinguishing between those accepted and

* See No. 414.

those rejected by the Ottoman Government. This led to a general discussion, in which the conduct of the Porte, its delays and constant changes of front, were animadverted upon severely by all the Commissioners of the Powers successively. Assim Pasha hardly attempted any reply, but gave the Commissioners to understand that he declined to be morally responsible for what had happened previous to the recent change of Ministry, and especially for the expressions of Sawas Pasha's Circular of the 17th April.

The present Ministry, he said, were considering the "Projet de Loi" and the amendments, and whether or no he was able to present anything, and, if so, how much, to the Commissioners on Monday, did not, therefore, altogether depend upon him individually.

The Commissioners, having once more expressed their dissatisfaction at what had occurred, and their hope that a change was about to take place, the incident closed.

After a few observations from the Russian and Austrian Commissioners and myself, to the effect that we were not to be supposed, from anything which had fallen from us, to have consented to the indiscriminate application of the new "Projet de Loi" to all the provinces, I also asked whether Assim Pasha was aware that Sawas Pasha had informed me that an official map, showing the boundaries of the vilayets, would be presented to the Commission. Assim Pasha said that he was not aware of any such promise, but that he would procure a map.

M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner, asked for some information as to what the places were where local Commissions had been held. Abro Effendi replied that they had been held at Adrianople, Salonica, Kossovo, Janina, and Monastir, but not at Scutari, which for civil purposes was part of the Vilayet of Monastir. This observation led to an animated discussion, the Russian Commissioner denying the accuracy of Abro Effendi's statement. It, however, eventually appeared that Abro Effendi was technically correct, but I evidently expressed the feeling of my colleagues when I said that it was impossible to suppose that the wishes of the inhabitants of Scutari could have been ascertained by means of a Commission acting at Monastir.

Upon the conclusion of this discussion I said that I considered it right to observe that the Turkish Government, in taking the initiative of the reforms and sending into the provinces an elaborate "Projet de Loi," with every detail worked out, had not acted in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which, having decentralization in view, directed that a "Projet de Loi" should be elaborated in each province separately. I have no wish, I said, to impute bad motives to the Ottoman Government, but I think it right on behalf of myself and my colleagues to record the fact of the infraction of the Treaty, though without wishing to demur to the consequent proceedings. Assim Pasha replied that the opinion of his Government was, that if the local Commissions had been left to themselves, they would not have been able to prepare anything practical.

The Commission then adjourned till Monday, the 21st June.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 622.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 28.)

Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Commission, at its meeting on the 17th instant, decided that its proceedings should be recorded in brief *comptes-rendus* rather than formal Protocols. There will be considerable saving both of time and money by the adoption of this course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 623.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 29.)
Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

CADRI PASHA having last night intimated to M. Kosjek, the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner, and to myself, that he would be glad to receive us if we would call at the Sublime Porte this morning, we determined upon calling together, and expressing our decided opinion to him as to the manner in which the Government was acting in regard to the business of the Commission. I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that, in consequence of our representations, Cadri Pasha has most solemnly undertaken that there shall be no further delay, and that the Commission shall be summoned by Assim Pasha for Thursday, and furnished with the "Projet de Loi" upon which it is to give its opinion. Cadri Pasha insisted very strongly upon the necessity of maintaining the sovereign rights of the Sultan in the provinces, and inveighed against the treatment of the Mahommedan population in Eastern Roumelia, which the Sultan's authority was unable to prevent.

I said that the Cretan Règlement was the model prescribed in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and that it was to be hoped that as successful an experiment might be made in Macedonia as in that island.

M. Kosjek observed that it must be recollected that complaints quite as loud reached us of the treatment of the Christian population elsewhere as those of the treatment of the Mahommedan population in Eastern Roumelia, not that he denied the latter.

On our way to Constantinople, I may mention that M. Kosjek and I had the good fortune to meet our Turkish colleague, Abro Effendi, on board the steamer. We conveyed to him our sense of his conduct in regard to the adjournment of the Commission, and our regret that, notwithstanding what had fallen from him and from Assim Pasha on the 17th instant, the change of Ministry did not seem to have produced any alteration in the method of business pursued by the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 624.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 30. Confidential.)
Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD a conversation this morning with my Austro-Hungarian colleague, M. Kosjek, about Albania. He said the Commission must treat the case of Albania separately from that of Adrianople and Salonica. This, he believed, was my opinion also, I said it was.

There was, M. Kosjek proceeded, as he believed, a Firman in existence signed and sealed, and only therefore requiring publication, constituting a large Albania out of the four districts of Kossovo, Monastir, Scutari, and Janina. He was in favour of this plan in principle, though upon the understanding that the limits of this large Albania were properly defined, and did not trench upon those of the other nationalities. As of the two possible solutions of the Eastern question, the division of Turkey among the Powers and the development of the nationalities, the latter had been decided upon. M. Kosjek said he wished to go through the plan consistently, and a big Albania properly constituted would be a step in the direction now being followed. A separate Constitution would, however, have to be provided for it.

In our conversation with Cadri Pasha, mentioned in my despatch No. 29, M. Kosjek suddenly asked the Prime Minister if the Firman was in existence, and if it was about to be issued. Cadri's reply led me very distinctly to believe that it does exist, and that it will be issued in some shape or another before long. M. Kosjek then said to Cadri Pasha that he was in favour of the idea, adding, however, the same qualifications which he had mentioned in talking to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 625.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 31.)
Buyukdéré, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the following documents:—

1. A petition from the representatives at Constantinople of the Bulgarian population of Macedonia.
2. A protest referred to in the above petition.
3. A petition from the Bulgarian inhabitants of Macedonia.
4. A petition from the representatives at Constantinople of the Greek population of Macedonia.

The last petition is addressed to Mr. Goschen, but was left here for me by a deputation on the 18th, with a request I should forward it when read to Mr. Goschen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 625.

Petition from the Representatives at Constantinople of the Bulgarian Population of Macedonia.

Excellence,

LES Soussignés, habitants de différentes localités de la Macédoine, résidant à Constantinople, ayant été informés que les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ont envoyé leur Représentants dans la capitale pour élaborer et appliquer les réformes prévues par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, afin que l'état misérable et insupportable des habitants de ces provinces puisse être amélioré, ont cru de leur devoir, comme représentants de la population Bulgare de la Macédoine de porter par l'intermédiaire de votre Excellence à l'honorable Commission ce qui suit:

En Macédoine les prescriptions de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin concernant la formation des Commissions Spéciales pour élaborer les détails des nouveaux Règlements n'ont pas été accomplies; car quoique l'Article XXIII dise que dans ces Commissions l'élément indigène sera largement représenté, l'élément Bulgare qui forme la majorité de cette province en a été complètement exclu. Les autorités locales n'ont point admis les Bulgares dans ces Commissions, composées d'une manière clandestine exclusivement de fonctionnaires.

La population Bulgare ayant appris par les journaux la formation des pareilles Commissions qui avaient déjà élaboré les réformes d'une manière contraire au Traité de Berlin plusieurs districts de la province ont adressé au Gouvernement Impérial des protestations dont nous avons l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-incluse une copie.

En informant votre Excellence de ce qui précède nous osons espérer que l'honorable Commission ne voudra pas considérer les réformes proposées par la Sublime Porte comme une œuvre de la population locale, qui n'a pu prendre aucune part dans leur élaboration, comme cela était prescrit par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent 160 signatures.)

Constantinople, le 20 Mai, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 625

Protest.

SA Béatitude l'Exarque des Bulgares a reçu de divers points sur lesquels s'étend sa juridiction ecclésiastique une pétition ainsi conçue, avec prière de la transmettre u premier Ministre:—

"Altesse!

D'après l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, les Commissions Spéciales, chargées d'élaborer les Règlements pour chaque province, doivent être composées en grande partie de membres représentant les différentes nations de la province et jouissant de leur estime,

afin qu'ils puissent donner des renseignements exacts sur les vrais besoins du pays. Votre Altesse a envoyé au Vilayet de Salonique le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale pour être examiné et adapté aux besoins du pays par une Commission Spéciale d'après les prescriptions du Traité de Berlin. Or, nous avons appris avec le plus vif regret que, par ordre de son Excellence le Vali, cette Commission a été composé exclusivement d'employés Grecs et Juifs sans aucun égard aux droits et aux intérêts des habitants Bulgares qui forment la majorité de notre vilayet. Une telle composition de la Commission est non-seulement contraire aux intentions libérales de votre Altesse et à l'esprit de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, mais encore aux besoins du pays et à nos droits nationaux.

C'est pourquoi les habitants Bulgares du Caza de Kouprulu, avec toute la soumission et tout le dévouement dont ils sont capables, prient humblement votre Altesse, dans une affaire si grave et si importante, ayant pour but la tranquillité et le bien-être d'un peuple, de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires, afin que, conformément au susdit Traité, les droits de la population la plus nombreuse dans la province ne soient point foulés aux pieds.

Inclosure 3 in No. 625.

Petition from the Bulgarian Inhabitants of Macedonia.

Excellence,

NOUS Soussignés, des Chrétiens Bulgares Orthodoxes, vivons dans un petit pays composé de onze villages situés dans le caza Kartzova, du Sandjak de Vitolin. Morts et ruinés, et exposés dans notre contrée à des tourments infernaux, nous nous informâmes des voyageurs que les Grandes Puissances, qui n'ont jamais cessé de nous témoigner leur faveurs et leur protection, viennent de nouveau de penser aux pauvres habitants. Après des longues et lamentables souffrances de deux années entières ce n'est qu'avec la plus grande joie que nous considérons votre réunion, dans laquelle nous vous prions chaudement de prendre en considération notre situation malheureuse. Votre arrivée à Constantinople nous remplit de joie et nous fait espérer positivement de voir l'amélioration de notre état actuel et de nous délivrer de la panique perpétuelle de nos longues souffrances pendant des siecles entiers. Malgré notre simplicité, la longue expérience du passé nous a rendus maîtres et très-connaisseurs, et pour cela nous prévoyons qu'au lieu des réformes salutaires on nous prépare de grands malheurs. Nous aimons à croire que notre Gouvernement montrera la plus grande disposition pour les organisations libérales que vous vous proposez d'appliquer ici. Mais permettez-nous de vous dire que, sans prendre des mesures radicales et indispensables pour faire tarir la source productive des maux, toutes les espérances dont nous nous nourrissons disparaîtront comme un rêve, se dissiperont comme un image. Rappelez-vous de la liberté que le Tanzimat et Hatt-Humayoun permettaient aux Chrétiens d'en jouir largement; remarquez que depuis cette époque-là, sous l'ombre seulement de ces privilèges larges et en même temps abstraits, nous nous consummons à petit feu des autorités injustes et tyranniques. Recherchez et examinez les manières dont tous les systèmes sont appliqués jusqu'aujourd'hui dans les villages, et vous serez bien convaincus que tous les Statuts susdits ne furent que de vides lettres, les Gouverneurs mêmes pour leur but se servirent joliment de toutes les organisations libérales pour exécuter des injustices inouïes sous la forme de la loi.

Alors nous avons bien raison de craindre que l'application des réformes actuelles ne soit pour nous un commencement des calamités et un nouveau système des mauvais traitements, et ne rende notre situation plus malheureuse qu'elle ne l'était auparavant, car le pressentiment nous fait déjà prévoir les souffrances, et les gémissements futurs, pendant que la magnanime Europe bien tranquille croira que nous sommes les plus heureux du monde sous l'ombre de ces réformes. Nous vous prions humblement de prendre en considération comme très-necessaire ce qui suit:

A l'application des réformes proposées et accomplies en faveur des opprimés, les populations Mahométanes, d'accord avec les autorités locales deviendront plus audacieuses et fougueuses contre les simples habitants, et ils tâcheront d'augmenter les maux et les cruautés de toutes les manières possibles. Victimes du passé Traité de Berlin, nous prévoyons que nous le serons de nouveau après l'application des présentes réformes. Après le Traité de Berlin nos souffrances se multiplièrent et dépassèrent toutes les bornes de l'humanité. C'est ainsi que nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui suspendus dans un gouffre entourés des tourments, des cruautés, et des tyrannies tellement cruelles qui les Puissances infernales mêmes en auraient été effrayées. Il nous est impossible de vous dépeindre la gravité de nos maux et de nos calamités; il n'y a qu'une main savante et habile qui pourrait vous exposer la situation déplorable, mais alors le temps même serait insuffisant; nous

nous bornerons à vous décrire bref et seulement quelques atrocités et crimes récemment commises et exécutées dans nos villages, afin que vous puissiez vous assurer des faits réels, qu'il faut mettre des fondements solides sur lesquels doivent être bâties les nouvelles et radicales réformes, qui sans cela resteraient des lettres insignifiantes.

Ce sont quatre bandes de brigands qui gouvernent disposent à leur gré de nos villages susdits: (1) les enfants de Mola Fazlié, de la ville Kitzovo et Djémaïl Haïreddin avec leur bande; (2) les gardes-champêtres Djafer Henkofski, et Ibrahim Pendelski, et Jevro Doulef et Baïram Djebal; (3) Sélim Aglia de Zaetz avec quinze bandes. Toutes ces divisions de bandits se promènent librement de village en village, nous imposent des taxes, déshonorent nos femmes, nos filles, qu'ils vendent sans avertir leurs parents, après avoir assouvi sur elles leurs brutales passions, et les avoir retenues un certain temps; d'autres font venir le curé, le force de célébrer les noces de ces filles violées avec des jeunes gens riches qui s'obligent en même temps de livrer aux criminels des sommes considérables; tout cela illégitimement et contre les commandements de notre sainte religion et contre toute loi humaine. En peu de mots, ce sont eux qui disposent nos propriétés, notre religion, existence, vie et mort. Malheur à celui qui oserait leur dire et faire la moindre remarque et contrarier leur brutale volonté, et leur plus grand malheur atteindrait la famile qui voudrait se venger de ses malfaiteurs, alors les autorités, d'accord avec ces assassins tâcheraient absolument de l'exterminer tout entière et même ruiner tout le village. Au susdit Sélim Agha, de Zaetz outre les vols, assassinats, violation, &c., chaque village est obligé et forcé de lui donner une taxe annuelle de 1,000 à 2,000 piastres, selon la force du village. Mais les enfants de Molla Fazlié avec les gardes du Gouvernement imposent à chacun 500 à 1,000 piastres. Également les susdits Soulie Toufectie exigent de chacun autant que leur passion jugerait bon et juste. Les enfants de Molla Fazlié massacrèrent les Chrétiens Silena Christief, de Zlatena, parce qu'il a manqué de leur donner la taxe régulière; Stanyia, du même village a été tué à coups de poignards dans sa propre maison, parce qu'il avait adressé des plaintes contre eux au Gouvernement. De même Vasilleta Angeloff a été massacré cruellement. Nicolas défendant sa famille que les malfaiteurs déshonoraient devant lui a été mis en mille pièces par des poignards. Également ils ont poignardé Videta Jossifeu et Vossila Statapanoff, de Stristnitza. Mitreta Stoïanoff, de Divita, et sa femme ont été massacrés cruellement. Bosca Jovev, de Lokvitza, a été mis en pièces à coups de hache pendant qu'il défendait sa belle-sœur. Stoïana Dimoff a été taillé horriblement voulant sauver sa fille de leur passions brutales. Tachanno Vartaefiki, de Zirela, et Stoika Giorgès, de Vir, ont été fusillés. Bibeta, de Mogilla, a été tué près de Derlef. Sabba Stoïanof a été percé des poignards au marché du village Brod. Une Bergerie avec 200 chèvres et les deux bergers a été livrée aux flammes dans le village de Zdonne. Selim Agha, de Zaetz, a tué Zdraveta, de Rostech. Ce monsieur s'est contenté de tuer un seul homme de notre localité, car la contrée voisine est le foyer de ses assasinats et de ses crimes, où il en tue par centaines. Également Soulie Toufectie s'est borné de fusiller un certain Micalas. Outre les morts et assassinés cruellement la dixième partie des vivants est mutilée de toute les manières des tortures, et pour vérifier les faits racontés on montrerait au curieux même des enfants âgés de 4 ans torturé à coups de bâtons et de fouets. Nous nous servîmes de différents moyens pour améliorer cette insupportable situation, mais tous nos efforts furent inutiles, car les autorités mêmes entendues avec les supérieurs de ces criminels servent de foyer et dont les noms sont:— Halil Bektassi, Youzbaschi Mehmet, Halparan Ahmet, Négiroff, et Molla Fetva, de Solb, membres du Medjliss de Kitzoba, d'où nos villages dépendent. Mais quand on les poursuit et on examine de près leurs actions funestes, ils se réfugient chez leur chef Housein Baba, qui demeure dans le Téké de Brod, et c'est dans les appartements de son harem que tous ces bandits se cachent. Quelques-uns des villageois, désepérés de cette misérable situation, émigrèrent avec leurs familles dans les villes voisines, les uns à Prilep les autres à Kitzovo, et la plus grande partie à Monastir, cédant aux malfaiteurs, brebis, bœufs, des champs semés, des maisons meublées et remplies de toutes les provisions nécessaires, et ils ne cherchent que sauver leur vie et l'honneur de leurs familles seulement. Douze familles émigrèrent du village Zlatina, deux de Divita, six de Greznitza, deux de Brod, six de Locqnitza, quatre de Tomilo, trois de Vaglenetz, quatre de Kitzé, quatre de Monastir. Si la magnanime Europe paraît impuissante de nous donner justice, d'améliorer cette situation lamentable, nous sommes tous prêts d'émigrer dans les villes, où, réduits de vivre dans la famine et la misère, nous préférons une mort incertaine mais indubitable et honnête. Les émigrés et réfugiés dans les villes se plaignent sans cesse au Gouvernement contre ces bandits, mais, helas! il n'y a plus ni justice ni Gouverneurs pour en implorer la protection. Le chef des bandits Djemaïl, Malla Fazlief, fut arrêté dans la capitale de Monastir, pendant qu'il y arrivait à la suite de nos instantes et incessantes prières auprès des autorités locales, mais après, une dixaine de ses compagnons avait demandé son élargissement sans enquête, sans jugement,

et depuis lors il devint infiniment plus fort et cruel. Et qui oserait se plaindre au Gouvernement étant déjà très-expérimenté du passé, que le malfaiteur sera justifié et comblé de louanges à cause de ses capacités contre les infidèles.

Alors vous exposant nos souffrances nous nous jettons à vos pieds humiliés avec nos femmes, enfants, et parents, qui sévis et languissants nous sommes des victimes des hommes qui sont plutôt des bêtes féroces que créatures humaines, et dont la soif ne s'étanche que par l'effusion du sang. Nous vous prions profondément de vouloir bien avoir pitié de nous, entendre nos plaintes en bons pères, porter quelques remèdes à nos maux, qui deviennent insupportables, et douer notre petit pays des réformes radicales et salutaires. Avant de commencer votre ouvrage à plume et papier nous vous supplions de vouloir vous donner la peine et venir visiter nos contrées; veuillez nous faire cette charité, ce petit sacrifice en faveur de ceux qui se sacrifient injustement. Venez arrêter la main cruelle de nos tyrans, venez considérer les haches élevées pour nous trancher les cous et des poignards dressés pour nous percer les cœurs; c'est alors seulement que vous verrez de près nos plaies profondes et incurables, c'est alors que vous examinerez notre situation malheureuse, les statuts et des organisations dont nous avons besoin; c'est alors que vous apprendrez minutieusement l'état des affaires; c'est alors seulement que vous pourrez comprendre le tout, c'est alors que vous vous persuaderez que toutes les réformes du monde resteraient sans effet s'il ne vous est pas possible de faire exécuter ce qui suit:

1. Le Gouverneur-Général doit être nommé pour cinq ans par le consentement des Grandes Puissances.

2. Former la milice et gendarmerie indigène.

Les réformes doivent être appliquées moyennant votre secours et votre surveillance. Autrement, sans ces garanties assurées, et indispensables pour une Administration légale, il ne faut pas vous fatiguer inutilement, car même les organisations actuelles des vilayets et qui nous font tant souffrir ne sont pas mal composées.

En vous exposant aujourd'hui ouvertement et définitivement toutes nos souffrances, vous remarquerez que nous sommes désespérés; s'il ne vous est pas possible de tenir secrètes nos plaintes exposées dans ce Rapport, soyez sûrs que nos tyrans ne tarderont pas de s'en informer, et alors sans le moindre doute nous ferons adieu à ce monde, à notre pays à jamais regrettable, et, malgré nous, nous irons rejoindre les Ames immortelles de nos femmes et de nos familles, martyres du Christianisme du dix-neuvième siècle.

Enfin, nous sommes remplis de la plus grande espérance que les Grandes Puissances que vous représentez dignement et qui nous ont réduits dans une telle situation par le Traité de Berlin ne souffriront et ne permettront plus à nos tyrans de nous opprimer, de nous ruiner impunément, et de faire des atrocités, des violences, et des outrages à nous qui supplions et implorons par le canal de cette Assemblée suprême des Commissaires son secours et son intervention.

Vos très humbles, &c.

(Suivent 11 signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 625.

Petition from the Representatives at Constantinople of the Greek Population of Macedonia.

Excellence,

LES Plénipotentiaires des Hautes Puissances Européennes lors de leur réunion au Congrès de Berlin, d'accord avec les Plénipotentiaires de notre Gouvernement Impérial, prenant en considération l'état misérable des populations dans les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe et voulant y porter remède, ajoutèrent un Article privé au Traité de Berlin.

Les Soussignés croient inutile de rappeler à votre Excellence que suivant cet Article les provinces susmentionnées auraient été administrées par une charte organique conforme à celle de Candie, qu'on aurait adapté selon les besoins et les intérêts de chaque province, et que pour la formation de cette charte on aurait nommé des Commissions provinciales dans lesquelles l'élément indigène aurait été largement représenté.

Malheureusement, Excellence, le contraire de ce qui a été décidé est arrivé; car, tandis que, selon l'Article ci-dessus, ces Commissions auraient dû être formées dans chaque district (sandjak) du Département d'Andrinople, on n'en a formé qu'une seule pour tout le département (vilayet), et les membres au lieu d'être élu selon les dispositions et le sens de l'Article précité, soit: par une libre élection des habitants, proportionnellement à la population de chaque district, ont été simplement nommés par un ordre imposé par le Gouverneur du Département ("Vali"). Quant à l'élément indigène on n'en a guère tenu compte, car parmi les vingt membres de cette Commission la plupart sont des fonctionnaires publiques et le restant représente, pour ainsi dire, le Département d'Andrinople tout entier, ayant été reçu de chaque district (sandjak) comptant plus de 100,000 habitants un seul représentant, et encore celui-ci pas de la nation la plus nombreuse.

Comprenant qu'une pareille Commission ne pourrait pas discuter et élaborer une charte adaptée aux véritables intérêts et besoins des provinces, les Soussignés protestèrent formellement, dès la formation de cette Commission, déclarant qu'ils ne se soumettraient pas ni à ses décisions ni à ses arrêts.

Par contre, les Soussignés prennent aujourd'hui la liberté de soumettre à votre Excellence les vœux et désirs réels ci-dessous exprimés dont l'exécution pourrait nous rendre pour le moment les moyens de vivre de même que les autres peuples administrés par de bonnes lois:

1. Que la religion Orthodoxe, conformément à ses privilèges, ses lois et canons, soit toujours libre en ce qui concerne ses églises, couvents, écoles, et établissements philanthropiques avec leurs mobiliers et immobiliers et l'immunité de ses biens, et que les autorités civiles ne puissent sous aucun prétexte s'immixer dans les affaires concernant les mariages, contrats de mariage, divorces, testaments, donations, biens d'orphélins, et tout ce qui s'y rapporte.

2. Que les Evêques ou leurs vicaires ainsi que les élus des communautés soient appelés à résider dans les Conseils Administratifs.

3. Que la langue Grecque, langue de la majeure partie de la population, soit reconnue avec la langue Turque, comme langue officielle.

4. Qu'il soit formé un régime de contribution fondé sur le droit de la justice et basé sur l'intérêt de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de toute autre ressource du pays et non comme aujourd'hui, un régime qui absorbe plus que le revenu produit à la sueur de nos fronts.

5. Qu'une bonne partie des revenus de chaque district soit consacré dans le district même à des œuvres d'instructions et d'utilité publique.

6. Que pour la sécurité de la vie et des biens de tous il soit formé une gendarmerie indigène choisie proportionnellement à la nationalité des populations.

7. Que les Juges soient élus par les populations proportionnellement à leur nationalité, parmi les habitants qui jouissent de bonne réputation et de la confiance publique.

8. Que les Juges comme les représentants des communautés dans les Conseils Administratif et Municipal soient élus par les habitants à la majorité des voix et sans aucune intervention des autorités civiles.

9. Que les Cadis et le Shérat ("loi sacrée") soient exclus de tout Tribunal Civil et Pénal, et que cette dernière ne puisse s'appliquer que dans des affaires religieuses entre Mahométans et que la composition de lois civiles et pénales soit conforme à celle qui régit les Etats administrés par de bonnes lois.

10. Que la religion Orthodoxe puisse jouir des mêmes droits et privilèges civils et religieux que les Mahométans, puisque nous sommes soumis aux mêmes obligations avec eux.

Telles sont en résumé, Excellence, les vœux et véritables demandes que les Soussignés vous soumettent humblement, en vous suppliant de faire en sorte qu'elles soient prises en considération et être acceptées par l'auguste Gouvernement.

Pleins de reconnaissance pour les démarches que fera votre Excellence, ils ont l'honneur, &c.

(Suivent les 589 signatures.)

Rodosto, le 13 *Mai*, 1880.

No. 626.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Belgrade, June 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 36, Confidential, of the 17th instant, forwarding a despatch from Sir Henry Elliot, in which his Excellency reports a conversation he had with M. Balutchano, the Roumanian Minister at Vienna, in which the latter expressed the anxiety of his Government with respect to a supposed projected confederation of the States south of the Danube, and more especially of Servia and Bulgaria, I have the honour to state that there are no signs of such a combination here, and that, on the contrary, there exists at present a feeling of irritation against Bulgaria,

which is not concealed even in the highest quarters. In a private conversation I had the other day with Prince Milan, His Highness expressed to me his satisfaction at the Austro-Servian Railway Convention, and I answered that he had every reason to be content, seeing the way in which it was accepted by the Skuptchina, and the success with which his Government had induced Austria to abandon her demands for the immediate construction of the Servian branch of the Servo-Bulgarian Railway. Noticing the last part of my sentence, His Highness exclaimed, "How could we, without a written engagement, trust to the co-operation of Bulgaria, the policy of whose Government is actuated solely by cynical egotism ('un Gouvernement d'un chauvinisme cynique')?" And on two or three subsequent occasions, in alluding to the Bulgarian Government, His Highness made use of the same expression.

This feeling of jealous distrust, which originated in disputes about the first settlement of the respective frontiers, and which has since been quickened by the late Bulgarian naturalization project, and the general tone of the Bulgarian press, though it might be modified by a sudden emergency, makes a preconceived and enduring understanding between the two countries for the present a matter of extreme improbability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 627.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No 87. Confidential.)
Bucharest, June 23, 1880.

My Lord,

A FEW days ago the Austrian Minister at this Court communicated to M. Boerescu, by order of his Government, the terms which the Imperial Cabinet was about to recommend to the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, with a view to settle in a definite manner the delimitation of the Dobrudscha in the neighbourhood of Silistria, in accordance with Article XLVI of the said Treaty.

From what I hear, this Government feels rather disappointed at the result of the Austrian mediation in this matter, as although the alteration proposed to be introduced in the line projected by the Delimitation Commission does not appear to be very considerable, still the nature of the frontier will not be such as to make Roumania feel perfectly easy and secure in that locality.

Persons generally well informed tell me that the effect produced by this news will tend to increase the existing uneasiness prevailing here, as it leads these people to look upon Austrian friendship as extremely lukewarm, and will make them quote this as an instance in which the Imperial Cabinet has but too readily sought to conciliate the *amour-propre* of the Emperor of Russia at the expense of a weak neighbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 628.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

E
(No. 338.)
Vienna, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed that the Greek Minister has assured the Austrian Government that his Government feel confident of their ability to take possession of the territory assigned to them by the Conference.

The Imperial Government profess to have no accurate knowledge of the military power of Greece, but they seem to think that even if it can occupy the plains of Thessaly, where the large majority of the people are in favour of annexation, the difficulties will be very great in the Epirus, where a considerable portion of the population will be found bitterly hostile, and certain of support from the Albanians.

I may perhaps be allowed to suggest that the feeling which prevailed in those districts on the subject of annexation to Greece at the time of the Crimean war may probably be found in Reports in your Lordship's office, from the late Consul-General Longworth, who was employed on special service in Thessaly and Epirus in 1854, when Colonel Grivas, afterwards Minister of War at Athens, made an expedition there with the view of getting up an annexionist movement.

The disposition of the people may have greatly changed during the years that have elapsed, but the Reports of such an able man and keen observer as Mr. Longworth may possibly, even now, be of some value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 629.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 339. Confidential.)
Vienna, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I LEARN confidentially from Baron Haymerle that M. Sabourow had told Count Széchényi, in a private conversation, that it was by the express instructions of M. de Giers that he had intimated at the Berlin Conference that the line of frontier proposed by M. de St. Vallier gave more to Greece than was intended by the Treaty of 1878.

Though the expressions of the Russian Ambassador were modified in the Protocol, it was not without surprise that the Austrian Government learnt that at the next sitting of the Conference he had proposed a still larger cession of territory in favour of Greece.

They consider that this proposal can only have been made for one of two objects: that it may have been brought forward with the view of showing the Greeks that the Russian Government was desirous of doing more for them than any other Government, or, as is thought more probable, it may have been advocated in order to render certain the rejection by the Porte of the decisions of the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 630.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 341.)
Vienna, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

COUNT SZECHENYI having requested the opinion of his Government upon the mode of submitting the decisions of the Conference to Turkey and Greece, Baron Haymerle has answered him very much in the same sense as your Lordship's reply to the same question from Lord Odo Russell.

His Excellency considers that the Governments of Turkey and Greece should be asked in identic terms to accept the frontier agreed upon by the Conference.

The exact form of words might require consideration, for Baron Haymerle thinks that the Powers would hardly be going far enough if they merely indicated the line as being the one recommended by them, while on the other hand they would be going too far if they laid the proposal before the parties interested, as a decision that must be accepted by them as it stands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 631.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

E
(No. 273.)
St. Petersburgh, June 24, 1880.

My Lord,

ON receipt of the note from M. de Giers, dated the $\frac{10th}{22nd}$ instant, which I forwarded yesterday to your Lordship, in which his Excellency expresses the repugnance of the Russian Government to Colonel Wilson's mission of inquiry, I repaired to the Foreign Office, and in the course of a long interview endeavoured to overcome the objections of the Secretary of State.

I began by expressing to M. de Giers your Lordship's deep concern at learning that the Imperial Cabinet should be unwilling to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government and the other European Powers in relation to a matter so intimately connected with

the successful operation of the Berlin Treaty, and in which the cause of justice, humanity, and good government were so deeply involved. The alleged maltreatment, I added, of the Mahommedan population of Eastern Roumelia by the Bulgarians through the medium of their unconstitutional Gymnastic Societies had during the last year been frequently the subject of conversation between us.

The recent events at Kirdjali and Aïdos seemed to have brought matters to a climax, and to have rendered some authoritative examination into the facts of the case absolutely necessary. In the note I had received from his Excellency yesterday he had himself admitted this, and I had reason to believe that the Representatives of most, if not all, of the other Powers at Constantinople, with the exception of the Russian Ambassador, were of the same opinion.

M. de Giers denied the accuracy of this statement, and read me a very able despatch from M. Novikoff, recounting the conference on the subject between himself and his colleagues, from which it appeared that the Austrian, German, and Italian Ambassadors had strongly opposed the International Commission of Inquiry at first suggested by Mr. Goschen, and of which he stated M. de Tissot was the only other advocate. I observed in reply that, in deference to the wishes of the Imperial Government, your Lordship had modified your original suggestion, and that the proposal now under consideration was merely the despatch of Colonel Wilson into Eastern Roumelia, with the general acquiescence of the European Governments, and with authority to investigate on their behalf, and to report for their information.

It is but fair to M. Novikoff to observe that in the despatch read to me he had evidently done full justice to Mr. Goschen's arguments. They were displayed at great length, and on concluding the paragraphs which contained them M. de Giers could not help pausing to pay an involuntary compliment to their force and ability.

After some further conversation, during the course of which I observed that, after what had passed in the British House of Commons, a searching investigation of some kind or another was inevitable, no matter what might be the result of the present *pourparlers* at Constantinople, M. de Giers, in whom a spirit of conciliation is never wanting, and who has invariably evinced the greatest desire to meet your Lordship's wishes whenever possible, showed a certain willingness to reconsider the matter. He observed that his note to me had not negatived your Lordship's proposal, but had merely urged a suspension of Colonel Wilson's appointment until the two Governments should have an opportunity of further discussion.

He then stated very frankly what I imagine to be the real causes of the reluctance of the Russian Government to acquiesce in an inquiry. He said an inquiry can always be conducted in a malicious and incriminatory spirit. There are a certain number of Russian officers in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Their presence is regarded with great jealousy by England, and though we are assured by our agents on the spot that nothing can come out to their disadvantage, it is possible that among so many there may be a few whose conduct has not been blameless, and this inquiry may be perverted into an instrument for discrediting the Russian army. I have no doubt, in saying this, M. de Giers had in his mind the Blue Book containing the Report of the Rhodope Commission, which had so greatly irritated the Emperor and all the military classes in Russia.

I observed, in reply, that the object of Colonel Wilson would be to ascertain whether the Mahommedan and Greek minorities were receiving justice and fair dealing at the hands of their fellow-subjects in accordance with the spirit of the Eastern Roumelian Constitution, and that I was quite certain Colonel Wilson would not go out of his way to evoke malicious accusations against officers of the Russian army in the manner anticipated by M. de Giers. His Excellency said, "At all events, should any Russian officer be found to have been in fault, his misdeeds should be communicated to us confidentially, and not ostentatiously held up to the opprobrium of the Greek community of the province."

His Excellency then intimated that another danger was lest the contemplated inquiry should lead to the reoccupation of Eastern Roumelia by Turkish troops. I assured him in the most positive manner that such a result would be as much deprecated by Mr. Gladstone as by the Emperor himself, and I referred to the strong terms in which Mr. Gladstone had repeatedly reprobated such an eventuality.

Lastly, his Excellency observed that he trusted if the inquiry went on no endeavour would be made to sow dissension between the mixed populations of the province. On this I reminded him that on various occasions I had insisted, not merely since the present Government acceded to power, but from the first moment I came to the country, on the unanimity and heartiness with which public opinion in England would be sure to rejoice in the successful development of a Constitutional régime in Roumelia; that your Lordship's

presence at the Foreign Office would still further accentuate this feeling, and that your main object in urging the step we were now considering was to insure union, good fellowship, and just dealing between the various nationalities for whose benefit the Constitution of Eastern Roumelia had been designed.

Our interview concluded by M. de Giers informing me confidentially that he thought he would be able to reassure the Emperor upon the points which principally preoccupied his mind in relation to the proposed mission of Colonel Wilson, and that it was probable an arrangement could be reached which would be satisfactory to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 632.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 27, 1880, 3 P.M.*

DEPARTURE of volunteers for Dulcigno continues, and Committee is evidently tempted by authorities and most active. It is endeavouring to excite enthusiasm, and telegrams from other parts of Albania are being published.

Notwithstanding these manœuvres, I still think that North Albanians would not be sorry if Sultan accepted new proposal, provided they could secure self-government.

Present moment should be [?] propitious for a settlement, as the whole population is anxious to be occupied with the harvest and abandon politics. Everything, however, depends on wishes of Porte.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 633.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 28, 1880.*

AFTER very long discussion a note to the Porte submitting Dulcigno proposal was agreed to.

Russian Ambassador had not received instructions as to modifications alleged to be still demanded by Prince of Montenegro, and he raised further [?] questioning expediency of making proposal, which, according to late appearances, the Porte is likely to decline. To the latter objection we replied by quoting the distinct instruction of our Governments. The former we met by indicating the proposed cession in very general terms only.

Our note is presented to-day. We assert that we cannot accept delay in the execution of the April Memorandum, and then referring to paragraph in Porte's in which it invites other modes of solution, we make the new proposal.

We describe the cession in general terms; dwell on the practical possibility of its execution; suggest among the means of carrying it out the grant of administrative arrangements to the Vilayet of Scutari which would satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Albanians; urge the necessity of an immediate solution; tie, in fact, the Porte in the meantime to the April Memorandum, and conclude by claiming execution of that agreement forthwith if new proposal is not accepted.

No. 634.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1880.*

THE decision of Berlin Conference seems very generally known. It has created great consternation among the Turks. I can hold out no hope that it will be accepted by the Porte. Whether the Government will support Albanians in their resistance or leave them to resist annexation unaided is uncertain, but struggle of some sort is, I

think, inevitable. Rumours are rife about warlike preparations by Government, but these may be intended as a demonstration only. Still the situation is very critical.

No. 635.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 22. Conference.) *Berlin, June 28, 1880, 10·50 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Conference met to-day, and I renewed the declaration of Her Majesty's Government in favour of the Mussulman population.

The President announced that he had received a further communication from the Turkish Ambassador declining in anticipation to accept the decisions of the Conference in the name of the Porte.

The subsidiary questions were discussed which will have to be recommended to our respective Governments for their future consideration. The wording of the award on the Final Act was discussed and settled. It is a plain statement of fact [? to be] communicated to Turkey and Greece.

My five colleagues also proposed to draft an identic note for their respective Governments to address to the Governments of Turkey and Greece.

I objected that they were exceeding their powers, and that the drawing up of the identic note should be left to our respective Governments.

But I was outvoted, and so reserved the consent of Her Majesty's Government.

Please let me know whether I am to agree to it in to-morrow's meeting.

No. 636.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 23. Conference.) *Berlin, June 29, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE literal translation of the award is as follows:—

"The *pourparlers* which took place between Turkey and Greece for the rectification of their frontier not having led to a result, the Undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of the Powers called upon under the provisions of the Act of the 13th July, 1878, to mediate between the two States, have met in Conference at Berlin, in accordance with the instructions of their Governments, and after mature deliberation, inspiring themselves with the spirit and the terms of Protocol 13 of the Congress of Berlin, have adopted unanimously the following line" (here Anglo-French line is described).

"The Undersigned have the honour to submit to the Powers of whom they are the Representatives and mandatories the present decision, that they may approve it and notify it to the parties interested."

I send this literal translation because I have no French cypher, but I have asked my French colleague to send to your Lordship the French text through his Embassy in London.

No. 637.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 24. Conference.) *Berlin, June 29, 1880, 10·54 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian newspapers having published correct information about Conference, the Protocols, Reports, and maps drawn can [? not] now be kept secret.

No. 638.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 25. Conference. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 29, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador spoke yesterday to the Plenipotentiaries about the wish of his Government to relieve Ionian Islands of the neutrality imposed upon them by Article II of the Treaty of 1864. We declined to entertain the question.

My private impression is that Russia is going to take up the Greek question and make it her own, and is paving the way to propose active interference in support of Greece against the inevitable resistance of the Porte to the proposed rectification of frontier.

No. 639.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29, 9·30 P.M.)

(No. 26. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 29, 1880, 7 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador has drafted an identic note, which will be communicated to your Lordship by the French Embassy in London as soon as it has been approved in Paris.

Please let me know whether I am to agree to it at the next meeting of the Conference on Thursday if it is unanimously accepted by the other Powers.

No. 640.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 20, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Minister at Constantinople has been authorized to desire the Consuls in Eastern Roumelia to communicate to Colonel Wilson any information they possess that can be of use to him in prosecuting his inquiry, but it is to be understood that their names are not to appear in any Reports that may be published. The Austrian Government have always a great dread of Blue Books, but the accounts they have received from their Agents of the state of things in Eastern Roumelia appear very similar to those of Mr. Michell.

No. 641.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 10th instant to Consul Lyall about Batoum, Villiers, who was there three weeks ago, says that there are no forts being constructed at Batoum, and Miliutine told him to-day that there was no intention at present to fortify the place.

No. 642.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 19. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1880, 4·10 P.M.*

YOURS No. 22, Conference.

HER Majesty's Government agree to the Representatives at the Conference drafting identic or collective note, but reserve liberty of Her Majesty's Government to reconsider the draft.

No. 643.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 20. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1880, 5·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 22, Conference, and to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 88, repeated to you, Her Majesty's Government think that a collective would be preferable to an identic note, and that the best word to use would be "invite," according to the 13th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, instead of "ask."

No. 644.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1880, 11 P.M.*

YOU should concert with your Austrian colleague as to answering Montenegrin note inclosed in your despatch No. 151 of the 15th instant, in terms of my telegraphic instructions to you with regard to guarantee, compensation, and fortifications.

(Repeated to Embassies.)

No. 645.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 23. Conference.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 29, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 22, Conference, of yesterday, relative to the wording of the Final Award of the Conference, and the proposal made by your five colleagues that an identic note should be drafted by the Conference, to be addressed by the Powers to Turkey and Greece.

As you will have learnt from Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 88 of yesterday, the Austro-Hungarian Government are of opinion that the note should be an identic one, to be settled by the Conference, and that it should contain an intimation that the Government of Great Britain or other Power "asks" from the Porte or Greece the acceptance of the line of frontier upon which the mediating Powers assembled in Conference have unanimously agreed, as conformable to the spirit and letter of the Treaty and of the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government would prefer to use the word "invite," as in the 13th Protocol, instead of "ask," and they consider that it would be better that the note should be collective rather than identic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 646.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 85.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 29, 1880.*

THE King of the Hellenes did me the honour to call upon me this morning.

His Majesty expressed to me the sincere gratification with which he had learned the decision of the Conference at Berlin, and acknowledged in warm terms the service which had been rendered to Greece by Her Majesty's Government. He said that it was his earnest desire to be guided by our advice in the further steps to be taken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 647.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, June 7, 1880.*

HAVING reason to suspect that a doubt exists with regard to the accuracy of the various statements contained in my despatches Nos. 41 and 52 of the 13th and 23rd April concerning the ill-treatment of Christians by Mussulmans, I resolved to have the matter thoroughly sifted; and, with that view, to send a special messenger in order that a searching inquiry might be made in the locality where these atrocities were said to have been committed.

For this purpose I endeavoured to obtain the services of a Christian, but, owing to the present unsettled state of the country, none could be found willing to undertake so perilous a mission. I was, therefore, compelled to send one of my cavasses, Joseph Castrati, a Catholic, and a very intelligent and trustworthy man, to whom I promised a gratuity in the event of his acquitting himself to my satisfaction.

He was absent ten days and returned last night, not without having run a certain amount of risk, for had the nature of his mission been known to the authorities, or even a suspicion of it, he would most undoubtedly have been made away with.

It was a considerable relief when he turned up. He supplied me with the following facts:—

He first visited the village of Partesch (alluded to in my despatch No. 41), where he called on Ivan Kovatchevich, aged 50, who stated that at 12 o'clock one night, in the beginning of last March, twenty persons, stating themselves to be gendarmes, knocked at his door, which, on being opened, was entered by six of them, the rest keeping guard outside.

The six remained in the house three hours. Having secured the owner and his son they proceeded to violate the wife, daughter-in-law, and two daughters, one of which was engaged to be married.

They then placed the father on a fire, and severely burnt his chest and stomach, after which the remaining fourteen ransacked the premises, and carried off all the cattle.

Six of the miscreants have been identified; their names are as follows:—

Salis Bisles, from Giuvkar.
Islam Surda, from Giuvkar.
Kaner, from Giuvkar.
Taf Ramnicio, from Rimniek.
Haidar, from Terpesa.
Serif Hamsi, from Gilan.

The next visit was to the village of Gruish, where the house of Assa was entered by the same persons, including the following:—

Sabia, from Gilan.
Roustem, from Lastitza.

The owner was ill-treated, and his mother was tortured by having a red-hot iron placed on her head; the object being to extort money.

At Dobrotin, about midnight of the 17th of last December, four men entered the house of Filip, the Orthodox Greek priest (mentioned in my despatch No. 52), twenty remaining outside.

They tied him down on his back, and placed hot coals and petroleum on his chest. They then carried off all his money and cattle.

The band was led by one Ismail, from Pristina, who the previous year had assassinated Filip's brother, a miller.

He is a relative of Mufti Effendi, a member of the Council of Pristina.

At Budovatz there lives a man named Ismail, who sometime back assassinated a Greek priest in the streets of Pristina, and, besides, two persons in the village of Gratzo Konicia, for the sake of a girl whom he carried off.

In the village of Vittinia, district of Gilan, an old man, 84 years of age, had his hair and beard burnt off with petroleum. His son was held down on the floor, and a fire lighted on his stomach with hay and gunpowder. The nephew was assassinated, and property to the amount of 10,000 piastres carried off.

The following are the names of the assassins:—

Aslami, Huseni, Hassani, Bairami, and Recepi Polako, all from the village of Kabash.

The same individuals on the 15th March entered the house of a woman named Ivana Jelenich, aged 40, whom they severely beat with their rifles, and to extort money lighted a fire on her stomach; after which they carried off all she had in the house, besides cattle, consisting of oxen, goats, and a horse.

In the village of Pacavan a man named Hiveko Dadig was murdered on the 4th May by Missim Selmani, for refusing to lend 2,000 piastres.

My cavass visited every one of the above-named victims, and besides took care to have their stories confirmed by others.

It is needless to add that no steps have ever been taken by the authorities to arrest the perpetrators of these foul acts, or to put a stop to further atrocities.

The state of the Christian population in that locality is truly appalling. None dare show themselves outside their villages, for if they do they are at once forced to work the fields for the Turks, and besides, are robbed of any money they may chance to have about them. Moreover, their own land is left uncultivated, and their condition, therefore, next winter will be terrible.

Every village throughout the country appears at this moment to be watched by the gendarmerie, whose duty it is, not to maintain order—for they often themselves commit atrocities on the Christians—but to arrest suspected persons and to collect taxes.

Some of the villages are inhabited by Catholics and Orthodox Greeks, who during the last ninety years have passed themselves off as Mussulmans, in order that they might be allowed to live. For this purpose they have adopted Turkish names, and regularly attend the mosques, but, nevertheless, retain the religion of their ancestors, and never fail to frequent their own church when a safe opportunity offers itself.

Such is the condition of the Sultan's Christian subjects in North-eastern Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 648.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 72. Political.)
Prisrend, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

ATROCITIES of a revolting character committed by Mussulmans on the Christians are not confined to the district of Gilan, but prevail throughout the Vilayet of Kossova as far as the Bulgarian frontier.

From accounts received the condition of the district east of Scopia is, if possible, worse than that of Gilan, of which I gave your Lordship a sample in my despatch No. 70 of the 7th instant.

Two villages are said to be the scene of even greater cruelties than those already mentioned. One is that of Kaeiar, near Scopia or Uskup, and the other Narosch, near Kuprulu, a station on the line of railway between Salonica and Mitrovitza.

With regard to public security Prisrend fares no better. Christians dare not show themselves in the Turkish quarter or outside the town.

The Dragoman of the Austrian Consulate, one of the richest merchants of the place, tells me that he has many thousand pounds' worth of wool being washed in the river outside the town, but that he cannot look after his workmen for fear of being assassinated, and therefore is compelled to employ Turks for that purpose.

During the last five years no Christian woman has ventured into the country, and such is the fanaticism, that if by chance money bearing a cross on it should be paid to a Mussulman by a Christian the coin is at once thrown back in the latter's face, and the act accompanied by abusive language, if not worse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 649.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 73. Political.)
Prisrend, June 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE already had occasion to report to your Lordship that a person named Hadji Omer Effendi is exercising great influence at Prisrend.

This man has now adopted the character of a "dictator," taking a very active part in public affairs, political and judicial, the Mutessarif who nominally represents the Government being completely set aside.

At the commencement of the year Moukhtar Pasha pointed him out to me as a deep schemer and traitor, and the instigator of Mehemed Ali's assassination, whom he intended, sooner or later, to have arrested.

Strange to say, he not only remains unmolested, but has taken the administration of affairs into his own hands, and is in direct correspondence with Moukhtar Pasha.

The police take their instructions from him, and at his will and pleasure high functionaries are dismissed from the public service without any assigned reason or warning.

Though not holding any official appointment, except that of teacher, he telegraphs in cypher wherever he pleases.

I have endeavoured to ascertain the nature of his connection with the Government, as well as the duties he has to perform.

Those who are not of his party, and represent the more respectable section of the inhabitants, describe his position as anomalous and unwarrantable; whereas his underlings, who are made up of the very worst characters, make him out as the Chief of the Executive for the maintenance of order and the administration of justice! But no improvement in the condition of the people is as yet discernible. Anarchy still prevails, and the Christians continue, as heretofore, to be robbed, tortured, and assassinated.

It is evident, therefore, that the Government are employing him to carry on intrigues calculated to frustrate the decisions of Europe.

If he succeeds, and no notice be taken, well and good; but if Turkey be called to account for the non-fulfilment of her Treaty obligations, the excuse will be given that, owing to the deeply-rooted spirit of nationality, loyalty, and patriotism of the Albanians, insurmountable difficulties stand in the way. I venture to maintain that such a plea ought never to be accepted, for these qualities, so far as this part of the province is concerned, only apparently exist in the minds of a set of fanatics, headed by Hadji Omer Effendi, forming the so-called "Albanian League," which, in reality, possesses no vitality except that derived from the Government, by whom, from time to time, it is thrust into evidence for the purpose of screening machinations and want of good faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 650.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 75. Political.)
Prisrend, June 17, 1880.

My Lord,

THE local authorities have received instructions from the Government to cause an inquiry to be made relative to the Greek monks of the ancient Monastery of Detchani, situated between Jacova and Ipek, who, it was alleged, were being plundered and persecuted by Mussulmans of the district.

The latter having been apprised of the intention of the authorities now compel the monks to deny these charges, and have forced them to sign a declaration to the effect that in no country in Europe could they be more contented or better treated than in Turkey; and that they felt themselves morally bound to denounce the person guilty of so false and malevolent a calumny!

It is scarcely necessary to state that the complaints of the monks are well-founded. They have, moreover, incurred a debt of 150,000 piastres, extorted by

Mussulmans for protection from persecution, which, as they are not able to pay, will be taken out in land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 651.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 32.) *Buyukdéré, June* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

THE second official meeting of the Commission was held to-day. The summons for it was only issued late yesterday afternoon, and I have little doubt that, had it not been for the determined attitude adopted by the Commissioners of the Powers, a far longer interval would have existed between the first and second meeting. The Commissioners having through the Baron de Kosjek and myself acquainted Cadri Pasha with the view entertained by them of the conduct of the Porte, it was not considered advisable to spend any time in repeating this opinion to the Turkish Commissioners, more especially as they have all for some time felt that Assim Pasha is not treated by his own Government with that confidence which he has a right to expect, and that his position is consequently in many respects a difficult and painful one. Personally he enjoys the respect of his colleagues, and they are anxious, so far as it is possible to do so, to distinguish between his conduct and that of his principals.

At the commencement of to-day's proceedings Assim Pasha laid before us interleaved copies of the whole of the new "Projet de Loi," showing, up to Article 100, the amendments suggested by the local Commissions of Adrianople, Salonica, Kossovo, Janina, and Monastir.

Assim Pasha then read out to us the amendments which the Porte itself intends to adopt. These, with a few trifling exceptions, seemed to us all to be merely verbal.

The "Projet de Loi" is identical with that of which I have already given your Lordship an account in my despatch No. 15. With but a few exceptions, the amendments of the local Commissions are not of any great importance, and those which are of any importance are almost entirely from Salonica and Adrianople. There has, therefore, been no reason whatever why, as I have over and over again suggested to the Turkish Commissioners and Ministers, the "Projet de Loi," of which the official translation has now been in existence more than two months, should not have been presented to the Commissioners immediately after their arrival here, together with translations of the Maybabas, which have also been in possession of the Porte, and, I may add, of some of the Commissioners, for a considerable period.

The conduct of the Porte in this matter is only one more melancholy instance of its determination to waste time, when its existence depends upon immediate action, and of its careless indifference to the sufferings of the population of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 652.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.——(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 33.) *Buyukdéré, June* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the "Projet de Loi," which, as I have informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 32, was to-day presented to the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 652.

Projet de Loi des Vilayets de la Roumélie.

(Traduction.)

Titre Premier.—*Des Droits Généraux des Habitants.*

ARTICLE 1er. Les habitants de chaque vilayet jouissent des droits déterminés par la Constitution, par les autres lois de l'Empire, ainsi que par la présente loi des vilayets.

Art. 2. Les habitants de chaque vilayet sont égaux devant la loi. Ils ont mêmes droits et mêmes devoirs sans préjudice de ce qui concerne la religion.

Art. 3. Chacun exercera librement son culte et sa religion reconnus dans les Etats Ottomans, et trouvera une protection égale de la part de l'autorité dans l'exercice des cérémonies religieuses. Tous les cultes et religions sont soumis aux lois générales, et ce qui se rapporte à leurs cérémonies est soumis aux règlements de police.

Art. 4. La liberté individuelle est à l'abri de toute atteinte. Nul ne pourra être poursuivi, arrêté, emprisonné que dans les cas spécifiés par la loi et conformément à la procédure qu'elle indique. Sous quelque forme que ce soit, il ne pourra être attenté à la liberté de quelqu'un. Et, à moins qu'un criminel ne soit pris en flagrant délit ou qu'il ne s'agisse de l'exécution des mesures prises par le Gouvernement pendant l'état de siège régulièrement établi, personne ne pourra être arrêté et emprisonné sans un Décret d'arrestation de l'autorité judiciaire, contenant les causes de l'arrestation, ainsi que cela est expliqué d'une manière détaillée dans les lois réglant la procédure criminelle. Le mandat d'amener devra être présenté à la personne arrêtée, soit au moment de l'arrestation soit quarante-huit heures plus tard.

Art. 5. Nul ne pourra être forcé de se présenter devant un Tribunal autre que celui dont il relève légalement, ni être soustrait à l'action de ce dernier; et, sous quelque nom que ce soit, il est absolument défendu de former, pour examiner et juger quelques affaires spéciales, un Tribunal autre que les Tribunaux ordinaires, ou une Commission ayant droit de Jugement. Mais il est permis d'ordonner des enquêtes ou contrôles judiciaires, ainsi que cela est déterminé par la loi.

Art. 6. Toute peine ne peut être appliquée qu'en vertu du Jugement d'un Tribunal compétent d'après la loi.

Art. 7. Le domicile de chacun étant inviolable, les agents de l'autorité n'y peuvent pénétrer que dans les cas déterminés par la loi.

Art. 8. L'industrie, l'agriculture, et en général tout travail ne peuvent être prohibés tant qu'ils ne portent pas atteinte à la moralité, ou à la salubrité et à la sécurité publiques.

Art. 9. Aucun monopole ne pourra être établi, excepté ceux qui sont régulièrement institués dans le but de créer des revenus publics et de préserver la sécurité publique.

Art. 10. L'assiette et la répartition des impôts s'établissent, conformément aux lois qui les régissent, en proportion des moyens de chaque contribuable.

Art. 11. Aucune somme d'argent ne peut être perçue à titre d'impôt, de taxe ou sous toute autre dénomination, qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Art. 12. Chacun peut librement circuler dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire, et établir domicile partout où il lui plaît, à la condition cependant de ne pas violer les lois et les règlements.

Art. 13. La propriété mobilière et immobilière de chacun est garantie; aucune expropriation ne peut avoir lieu que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, et ce, dans les circonstances et de la manière déterminées par la loi, et moyennant le paiement préalable d'une contre-valeur convenable.

Art. 14. La confiscation des biens, la corvée et le djérimé (exaction sous forme de pénalité pécuniaire) sont prohibés. Cependant, en temps de guerre, les mesures qu'elle nécessite et les contributions levées légalement sont exceptées de cette disposition.

Art. 15. L'enseignement est libre. La liberté de l'enseignement devant satisfaire aux lois et règlements qui déterminent les conditions de qualité et de capacité requises, et respecter les lois du pays, ainsi qui les mœurs et le bon ordre publics, sera placée sous la haute surveillance de l'autorité. Cette surveillance sera, sans distinction, exercée sur toutes les écoles.

Art. 16. Chacun peut, en se conformant aux lois établies, exprimer sa pensée par le moyen de la presse.

Art. 17. La presse est libre. La loi pourra en réprimer les abus. Les feuilles imprimées ne seront pas soumises à la censure avant leur publication.

Art. 18. Les terres appartenant à l'Etat seront données gratuitement aux vilayets pour y fonder des établissements d'utilité publique, tels que écoles, hôpitaux, et fermes-modèles. Les terrains sans propriétaire, dans l'intérieur des villes et des villages, sont, dès à présent, cédés aux cercles municipaux.

Art. 19. A l'exception des droits de Douane, de la taxe des sels et des impôts sur les tabacs, le dixième des autres revenus généraux de chaque vilayet, après prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale, sera abandonné à ce vilayet pour la construction et la réparation des routes, ponts et échelles, le creusement des canaux, le dessèchement des marais et, en général, pour les travaux d'utilité publique et la propagation de l'instruction. Le reste sera affecté au budget de la guerre et aux autres dépenses générales de l'Administration Centrale. Cependant, les revenus des Vakoufs, n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

Art. 20. Dans chaque vilayet, quiconque possède les connaissances et la capacité exigées par la loi, pourra être admis aux fonctions publiques. Cependant, nul ne pourra être Caïmacam dans son Caza ni Mutessarif dans son Sandjak.

Art. 21. Les Jugements rendus par les Tribunaux seront écrits en langue Turque ; il en sera donné aussi une traduction certifiée conforme, dans la langue employée par la majorité des habitants. Parmi les Juges, ceux qui connaissent les langues locales seront préférablement nommés. Quant aux Juges d'Instruction ("Mustantik"), ils seront pris absolument parmi ceux qui possèdent ces langues.

Art. 22. Des pétitions signées par une ou plusieurs personnes peuvent être présentées au Gouvernement ; mais le corps reconnus par le Gouvernement auront seuls le droit d'en présenter au nom d'une communauté ou de la généralité des habitants.

Art. 23. Conformément aux dispositions qui seront indiquées plus loin, il sera constitué dans chaque vilayet une Assemblée Générale de vilayet dont la majorité des membres sera élue par les habitants. Cette Assemblée Générale aura le droit de déléguer auprès du Vali une Commission Permanente qui, avec des attributions déterminées, hâtera la mise à exécution des décisions prises par l'Assemblée Générale, et préparera, de concert avec le Vali, les questions qui devront être soumises à ses délibérations de l'année suivante.

Art 24. Les Conseils Généraux des vilayets, en outre des attributions qui seront définies dans un Titre spécial, sont aussi autorisés à exprimer leurs opinions, et proposer des amendements aux lois et règlements qui se rapportent :

(*a.*) Aux attributions des diverses branches d'administration créées par la présente loi.

(*b.*) A la substitution ou à la modification des impôts existants.

(*c.*) A l'assiette des taxes et des impôts nouveaux dans le but d'augmenter les revenus.

(*d.*) A la comptabilité du vilayet.

(*e.*) A l'instruction publique.

(*f.*) Aux droits d'octroi, aux mines, aux forêts, et aux eaux.

(*g.*) Aux routes ordinaires, ainsi qu'à la concession et à l'exploitation des chemins de fer, et en général, à tous les autres travaux d'utilité publique.

(*h.*) A l'agriculture, au commerce, et à l'industrie.

(*i.*) A la création des banques et des sociétés.

(*j.*) Aux terres et propriétés cédées aux vilayets.

Titre II.—*Des Attributions des Valis ou Gouverneurs-Généraux.*

Art. 25. Les Valis sont nommés pour une période de cinq ans comme représentants de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et les plus hauts fonctionnaires du pouvoir exécutif dans les vilayets. Ils sont autorisés à dresser et à publier des instructions et avis relativement aux modes d'exécution des lois et des règlements.

Art. 26. Les Valis sont, à l'égard du Gouvernement, responsables de tous les actes relatifs à l'accomplissement de leurs fonctions.

Art. 27. Les Valis nomment à leur place un représentant convenable, choisi parmi

les fonctionnaires du vilayet, pendant leur absence provisoire du siège de leur Gouvernement, ou dans le cas d'empêchement à l'exercice direct de leurs fonctions.

Art. 28. Les Valis pourront déclarer l'état de siège, conformément à la loi qui y est relative, dans tout le vilayet ou dans une ou plusieurs localités, sur l'avis et la proposition des Commissions Permanentes des Conseils Généraux des vilayets, ou bien s'ils le jugent nécessaire. Cette mesure sera prise : (1) lorsque les habitants s'opposent à l'exécution d'une loi, d'un règlement, ou d'un ordre émané régulièrement, ou bien s'ils persistent dans leur opposition après avoir été invités à l'obéissance et à la soumission ; (2) lorsque un mouvement armé, ou des désordres dangereux ayant lieu parmi les habitants, au point de détruire la confiance publique, les agents de l'autorité sont impuissants à rétablir la tranquillité.

Il est nécessaire que la décision relative à la déclaration de l'état de siège contienne les motifs qui l'ont nécessitée, et soit immédiatement communiquée à la Sublime Porte. De même, la déclaration de l'état de siège devra être publiée dans les districts où il sera établi ; et il ne sera mis en vigueur qu'après cette publication. L'état de siège devra être levé aussitôt que les motifs qui l'ont nécessité auront cessé.

Art. 29. Les Valis, en leur qualité de Chefs du pouvoir exécutif, s'occuperont de la mise à exécution de toutes les lois et règlements, ainsi que de la préservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques. Il se concerteront, pour les affaires rentrant dans leurs attributions, avec la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général.

Les Valis nommeront les employés dont le choix et la nomination leur reviennent, ainsi qu'il sera dit dans le titre à ce relatif. Ils ne pourront pas créer de nouveaux emplois, sans s'appuyer sur un règlement spécial.

Art. 30. La gendarmerie et la police des vilayets se trouveront sous les ordres des Valis. Les Commandants de ces corps, jusqu'au grade d'Adjudant-Major ("Col-Aghassi"), seront nommés par les Valis, conformément aux dispositions de la Loi de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 31. Les Valis convoquent les électeurs, conformément aux dispositions du titre relatif à cette question, à l'élection des membres pour le Conseil-Général, ainsi que pour les Conseils Administratifs, Municipaux et Communaux. Ils réunissent le Conseil Général et décident de la clôture des délibérations.

Art. 32. Les Valis présentent au Conseil Général l'ordre du jour des affaires qui relèvent de ce Conseil ; ils lui soumettent le budget des revenus et des dépenses, et lui font part des opérations qui ont eu lieu dans le cours de l'année précédente ; ils mettent à exécution celles des décisions contenues dans le procès-verbal ("mazbata") dressé par le Conseil Général, qui relèvent directement de leurs attributions ; et ils soumettent aux Ministères respectifs, celles de ces décisions dont l'exécution est subordonnée à une autorisation, ainsi que cela est expliqué dans le titre spécial.

Art. 33. Les Valis rapportent aux Ministères que cela concerne, les statuts et règlements des Sociétés Anonymes qui se constituent dans les vilayets ; et suivant l'ordre qu'ils en recevront, ils autorisent la formation de ces Sociétés.

Art. 34. Les Valis exécutent les lois et règlements établis, ainsi que les ordres qui leur sont adressés par le Gouvernement Central. Ils contrôlent, en premier lieu, les actes des Mutessarifs et des fonctionnaires du centre du vilayet, et en second lieu, par l'intermédiaire de ceux-ci, les actes des fonctionnaires de toutes les branches d'Administration. Lorsqu'ils ont connaissance des fautes commises par eux au préjudice de l'Administration, et que les cas constatés exigent l'éloignement des délinquants de leurs fonctions, ils mettent, conformément à la loi spéciale, en disponibilité ceux d'entre eux dont la destitution est exigée par cette loi ; et ils proposent aux Ministères respectifs la mise en disponibilité de ceux dont la destitution en dépend. Ils ordonnent la mise en Jugement, conformément au titre concernant le Jugement des fonctionnaires, le fonctionnaire destitué, si le motif de sa destitution est un crime ou un délit.

Les Valis contrôlent également les actes des Chefs de l'Administration des Contributions, des Postes, des Télégraphes, des Vakoufs et des Quarantaines, des Capitaines de Port, et en général de tous les autres employés qui, se trouvant dans le vilayet, ne sont pas placés sous leur administration directe. Si des plaintes se produisent contre ceux-ci, ou s'ils entendent parler de leur mauvaise administration, les Valis ordonnent les enquêtes nécessaires, et en soumettent les résultats aux Ministères dont ces employés relèvent. Ces Ministères devront donner une prompte suite aux rapports des Valis en pareil cas.

Art. 35. Les Valis doivent, au moins une fois par an, faire une tournée d'inspection dans les sandjaks et les cazas compris dans le vilayet. Et si, par suite d'événements graves, ils jugent nécessaire de se rendre aussi, extraordinairement, sur quelque point

du vilayet, ils y vont immédiatement, et portent le fait à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte.

Art. 36. Les Valis contrôlent la perception de tous les revenus et impôts du vilayet, l'administration générale des sommes encaissées, ainsi que l'action et la conduite générale des percepteurs.

Art. 37. L'administration financière et la perception des revenus des vilayets, ainsi que l'organisation et l'emploi du corps des percepteurs sont respectivement soumises à des règlements spéciaux.

Les contestations, désaccords, et réclamations qui se produiraient au sujet de l'assiette des impôts et charges, dans les localités où l'inscription foncière n'est pas encore organisée, seront examinés d'abord dans le Conseil d'Administration du sandjak où ils ont lieu, puis dans celui du vilayet, et, enfin, dans l'Assemblée Générale de ce vilayet. Si le résultat de cet examen aboutit à la modification des charges et impôts du vilayet, sans en affecter le montant général, le Vali opère directement cette modification et en communique le mode d'exécution au Ministère des Finances. Mais, s'il est jugé convenable d'effectuer la remise d'une somme plus ou moins grande des revenus, cette remise ne peut être opérée qu'à la suite d'une autorisation de la Sublime Porte.

Art. 38. Les Valis dresseront le budget du vilayet et le feront examiner et confirmer par l'Assemblée Générale. A la clôture de la Session de cette Assemblée, le budget devra être présenté au Ministère des Finances. Les Valis sont autorisés à effectuer, sans en demander l'autorisation, les dépenses portées dans le budget approuvé par le Gouvernement. Mais le virement d'un chapitre à un autre ne peut avoir lieu que sur une autorisation du Ministère de l'Intérieur.

Les Valis sont également autorisés à dépenser et à faire dépenser, selon les décisions de l'Assemblée Générale et des Conseils d'Administration et sans en demander l'ordre, les sommes cédées par le Gouvernement pour la prospérité du vilayet ou ajoutées à l'impôt par une décision de l'Assemblée Générale pour les travaux d'utilité publique.

Le Vali et le Defterdar sont en commun responsables dans les affaires de finances et de comptabilité. Les devoirs qui incombent au Vali et au Defterdar en ces matières sont déterminés par un Règlement spécial.

Art. 39. Les Valis faisant promptement mettre à exécution, par l'entremise des Directeurs de l'Instruction Publique, tous les Règlements relatifs à l'instruction, s'efforceront de réaliser les moyens de la propager et de la généraliser dans les vilayets, d'améliorer l'état des écoles existantes, d'en établir de nouvelles, et de faire progresser les connaissances.

Art. 40. Les Valis, par l'entremise des Directeurs respectifs, s'efforceront de réaliser les moyens de faire progresser le commerce, l'agriculture, et l'industrie, de construire et réparer les routes et chemins, d'établir des ponts et des quais sur les côtes maritimes, de percer des canaux, de nettoyer les fleuves, rivières, et lacs, de préserver la salubrité publique, d'utiliser les terres délaissées, de créer des Caisses d'utilité publique, de crédit, et d'épargne, de maintenir en bon état celles qui existent, d'ouvrir des hôpitaux, de former des Sociétés, d'instituer des fabriques, d'augmenter les produits des mines et forêts.

Art. 41. Sont également au nombre des devoirs importants des Valis, la conservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques des habitants par l'intermédiaire du Chef de la Police, l'arrestation et détention des coupables et l'exécution de toutes sortes d'enquêtes et de contrôle au sujet de la sécurité publique et municipale.

Art. 42. S'il se produit, dans les limites du vilayet, un mouvement insurrectionnel partiel ou total, troublant la sécurité et les droits des populations ou du Gouvernement, le Vali, tout en faisant connaître immédiatement à la Sublime Porte, les origines, la forme et les forces du mouvement, est autorisé, sous sa propre responsabilité, à prendre les mesures nécessaires et à faire sans retard, selon les circonstances, les dépenses mêmes non prévues par le budget; mais il doit en même temps en télégraphier les motifs au Ministère des Finances.

Art. 43. Les Valis pourront, quand ils le jugeront nécessaire, diriger sur un point, outre la gendarmerie, des troupes régulières. Tout en faisant connaître le fait à la Sublime Porte, ils emploieront les forces nécessaires, après avoir donné un ordre officiel à l'officier du plus haut grade de l'armée régulière qui se trouvera sur les lieux. Si, dans des circonstances extraordinaires, il ne se trouvait par sur les lieux des troupes régulières, ou s'il n'y en avait pas en quantité suffisante, ils le feront connaître à la Sublime Porte et au Commandant des forces militaires, et ils pourront

employer autant de troupes de la réserve ou de l'armée territoriale que cela sera nécessaire, après en avoir conféré, dans le Conseil Administratif, avec l'officier de la réserve du grade le plus élevé; il sera dressé procès-verbal de cette Conférence.

Art. 44. Les Valis ne doivent pas s'immiscer dans les affaires judiciaires, ni faire usage de leur influence dans les affaires pendantes devant les Tribunaux. Mais, quand ils auront aperçu des lacunes dans les règlements des Tribunaux, ou auront constaté l'incapacité et des abus des fonctionnaires, ils saisiront de l'affaire l'inspection des Tribunaux, et la feront connaître en même temps au Chéikh-ul-Islamat ou au Ministère de la Justice, selon les circonstances.

Art. 45. Les Valis prêteront aux Procureurs-Généraux, sur leur demande, l'assistance nécessaire pour l'exécution des Jugements édictés par les Tribunaux Correctionnel.

Art. 46. Les Mutessarifs indépendants, étant considérés comme des Gouverneurs-Généraux, en ont toutes les attributions.

Titre III.—*De l'Administration Centrale des Vilayets.*

Art. 47. Les affaires civiles du vilayet sont administrées par les principaux fonctionnaires qui sont:

(*a*) Le Mustéchar, (*b*) le Defterdar, (*c*) le Directeur de la Justice, (*d*) le Mektoubdji ou Directeur de la Correspondance, (*e*) le Directeur des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture et du Commerce, (*f*) le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, (*g*) l'Alay Bey, ou Colonel des Gendarmes.

Dans les vilayets où il n'y aura pas de Directeur de la Justice, ces fonctions seront exercées par le Président de la Cour d'Appel. Et dans les vilayets où il n'y aura pas de Mustéchar, le Mektoubdji en remplira les fonctions.

Art. 48. Le Conseil d'Administration qui assistera le Vali, sera composé de ces principaux fonctionnaires. Le Conseil se réunira sous la présidence du Vali; et en son absence, la personne désignée par lui présidera le Conseil.

Art. 49. Le Conseil d'Administration exprimera son avis sur toutes les questions que le Vali lui soumettra, soit pour se conformer à la présente loi des vilayets ou à une autre loi ou règlement, et soit de sa propre initiative. Le Vali, n'étant nullement lié par les décisions du Conseil d'Administration, aura toujours la responsabilité de ses actes.

Art 50. Chacun des principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet a pour mission d'exécuter les lois et règlements généraux dans ce qu'ils concernent chacun d'eux, ainsi que les ordres et prescriptions qui leur seront donnés par le Vali.

Ils dirigeront et surveilleront, par les instructions et les ordres nécessaires, les fonctionnaires placés sous leurs ordres, et leur aplaniront les difficultés qu'ils pourront rencontrer dans l'accomplissement de leurs fonctions.

Ils décident, s'il y a lieu, d'accepter ou de rejeter les demandes formulées par pétitions. Celles de ses décisions dont on ne peut pas appeler aux Tribunaux, peuvent être modifiées par le Vali.

Les principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet, à la suite d'une décision du Conseil d'Administration, concluront les contrats relatifs aux fournitures, chacun pour ce qui concerne sa division, tout en se conformant aux règles établies dans le Titre spécial. Ils ont le pouvoir d'organiser, de faire exécuter, et de contrôler les travaux qui sont du ressort de leur Administration, dans les cas déterminés par les règlements.

Des Attributions des Mustéchars.

Art. 51. Le Mustéchars étant les aides des Gouverneurs-Généraux, s'occupent de celles des attributions des Valis que ceux-ci leur délégueront. Ils dépouilleront la correspondance émanant des divers points du vilayet, et, avec l'autorisation des Valis, d'autres pièces et documents. Ils les transmettront aux divisions auxquelles elles se rapportent, après avoir indiqué les avis et décisions du Gouvernement du vilayet, et après en avoir soumis les plus importantes au Vali.

Les relations avec les communautés religieuses du vilayet, les actes relatifs à la police des religions et des cultes, la police générale, les instructions à donner aux fonctionnaires des diverses régions du vilayet; et, en général, les questions qui ne dépendent pas des autres principaux fonctionnaires, sont du ressort des Mustéchars.

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Des Attributions des Defterdars.

Art. 52. Les Defterdars ont pour attributions :—

(*a.*) De surveiller l'assiette et la répartition des impôts.

(*b.*) De faire rentrer à temps les revenus généraux, les amendes, et toutes les autres classes des revenus du vilayet.

(*c.*) De surveiller les monopoles établis par le Gouvernement.

(*d.*) De surveiller les immeubles, les terres, les biens, et les forêts de l'Etat.

(*e.*) D'effectuer les dépenses concernant le vilayet.

(*f.*) De contrôler la comptabilité générale du vilayet et de dresser à temps le compte de l'armée.

(*g.*) De dresser et régler le budget du vilayet.

(*h.*) De donner leur avis sur les impôts et les lois et règlements se rapportant aux finances, et d'y proposer des modifications.

Les employés du Cadastre et des registres fonciers ("Defteri-Khakani"), ainsi que les percepteurs, sont sous les ordres du Defterdar. Les Defterdars s'occupent aussi des affaires financières concernant les Douanes, les postes et télégraphes, les mines, et les forêts. Ils veillent à l'entière exécution des dispositions du réglement des finances. Et, si certains fonctionnaires n'agissent pas, quant aux affaires financières, d'une manière conforme aux lois ou aux règlements de la comptabilité, ils en donnent avis au Vali, et indiquent les moyens d'y remédier. Ils feront connaître au Vali ceux des comptables ou caissiers qui leur paraîtront en défaut ainsi que les causes de ces manquements. Ils pourront lui proposer leur destitution et leur remplacement. Ils examinent aussi la comptabilité de l'Imprimerie du vilayet.

Art. 53. Les fonctionnaires des finances du centre du vilayet sont :—(1) Le Defterdar; (2) un Inspecteur des Finances voyageur; (3) un Mouavin ("Sous-chef") du Defterdar, et qui sera en même temps Contrôleur du Bureau de la Comptabilité; (4) le Caissier; (5) les fonctionnaires du Bureau de la Comptabilité.

Ces fonctionnaires se réuniront une fois par semaine en Conseil, sous la présidence du Defterdar, afin d'examiner les affaires financières qui leur seraient transmises pour être discutées. Les fonctionnaires du Cadastre et du Defteri-Khakani feront aussi partie de ce Conseil.

Art. 54. Aux époques désignées par le Defterdar, l'Inspecteur des Finances fera une tournée dans le vilayet pour reconnaître l'état des fonctionnaires de finances et des percepteurs, contrôler la comptabilité, examiner les comptes des Caisses de l'Administration, et entendre les plaintes des contribuables. Cette tournée aura lieu après la publication du cahier de répartition des impôts.

Quoique le Defterdar soit subordonné au Vali, c'est de lui, cependant, que dépendent toutes les questions de finances et de comptabilité. Il est donc, de ce chef, directement responsable vis-à-vis du Ministère des Finances.

Des Attributions des Directeurs de la Justice.

Art. 55. En outre des matières indiquées dans les lois et règlements du Ministère de la Justice, les Directeurs de la Justice auront les attributions suivantes :—

(*a.*) De désigner, quand cela sera nécessaire, en matières pénales, un Procureur-Général provisoire auprès des Tribunaux qui n'en auraient pas.

(*b.*) Diriger les prisons et faire exécuter les peines édictées.

(*c.*) Examiner les pétitions demandant une remise des peines, dresser les Rapports y relatifs, et en porter les conclusions à la connaissance du Vali, pour qu'il les soumette au Ministère de la Justice.

(*d.*) Surveiller les fonctionnaires et le personnel du service judiciaire.

(*e.*) Faire dresser les statistiques concernant les Tribunaux.

(*f.*) Donner leur avis relativement à la réglementation des Tribunaux, aux prisons et aux peines, ainsi qu'à la procédure civile et commerciale.

Des Attributions des Mektoubjis ("Chefs de la Correspondance").

Art. 56. Les attributions des Chefs de la Correspondance consistent en la direction de toutes les affaires ayant rapport à la correspondance du vilayet, et en l'organisation et la conservation des registres. Ils exercent leurs premières attributions par l'entremise du bureau de la correspondance, et les secondes par celle du Directeur des Archives du vilayet, l'un et l'autre se trouvant sous leurs ordres.

Art. 57. Le Chef de la Correspondance a encore pour attributions : l'inspection ou

surveillance des affaires concernant la correspondance et les registres du siège central et des dépendances du vilayet, ainsi que la bonne garde et la sécurité des dépôts des archives. Lorsqu'il a connaissance d'un défaut dans la régularité des affaires de correspondance ou d'enregistrement d'une localité quelconque du vilayet, ou de l'incapacité des fonctionnaires de ces branches d'Administration, il en soumet l'amélioration ou régularisation au Vali. La surveillance de l'Imprimerie et du journal du vilayet entre également dans les attributions du Mektoubdji.

Des Attributions des Directeurs des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce.

Art. 58. Les attributions de ces Directeurs sont :

(*a.*) Encourager le commerce, l'industrie, et l'agriculture et les surveiller sous le point de vue de l'intérêt général.

(*b.*) Faire construire des routes et des ponts et en prendre soin.

(*c.*) Contrôler la construction, l'administration, et l'exploitation des chemins de fer et des tramways concédés aux particuliers par suite de leur utilité au vilayet.

(*d.*) Contrôler l'Administration des chemins de fer appartenant à l'Etat, dans le but de faire respecter en tous points les lois et règlements auquels ils sont soumis sous le rapport de leur exploitation.

(*e.*) Faire construire et exploiter les ponts, quais, et autres travaux hydrauliques, et faire creuser des canaux pour l'agriculture.

(*f.*) Construire des digues et des canaux latéraux aux rivières, et exécuter les autres travaux nécessaires pour s'opposer à leurs débordements; établir des canaux de navigation.

(*g.*) Faire assainir les terrains marécageux pour le compte du vilayet; faire arroser les terrains trop secs; surveiller les travaux de cette nature entrepris par des cazas, des nahiés, des Syndicats ou des Compagnies.

(*h.*) Construire, administrer, et meubler les bâtiments publics du vilayet.

(*i.*) Régulariser la coupe des bois dans les forêts et bois, conformément au règlement des forêts, exploiter les forêts du fisc, avoir soin de leur police, établir des mesures réglementaires pour les bois et forêts appartenant à des particuliers.

(*j.*) Etudier le régime des eaux.

(*k.*) Réglementer la chasse et la pêche.

(*l.*) Contrôler les mines, les hauts-fourneaux, et les chaufourneries, et exploiter ceux appartenant à l'Etat.

(*m.*) Opiner sur les lois et règlements relatifs à ces matières, ainsi que sur les projets présentés.

Les employés des forêts, mines, et ponts et chaussées du vilayet, ainsi que les Ingénieurs et les Commissaires des chemins de fer sont sous les ordres de ces Directeurs.

(*n.*) Ils ont encore parmi leurs attributions, le dénombrement des habitants du vilayet, et tout ce qui a rapport à la statistique; par conséquent, ils ont sous leurs ordres les employés chargés du dénombrement des habitants, les Directeurs et les bureaux qui seront constitués pour cet objet dans les livas et les cazas.

Des instructions spéciales détermineront les modes de recensement de la population, d'enregistrement des naissances, décès, et autres cas et opérations de statistique.

Des Attributions des Directeurs de l'Instruction Publique.

Article 59. Ces attributions sont :—

(*a.*) La construction des écoles destinées à l'enseignement et à l'instruction par le vilayet.

(*b.*) Le contrôle et l'inspection des écoles établies par les nahiés, les communautés, et les particuliers.

(*c.*) La soumission aux examens des personnes chargées de l'enseignement, de l'instruction aux divers degrés et de l'instruction professionnelle, ainsi que la délivrance à ces personnes des certificats constatant le résultat de leurs examens.

(*d.*) L'étude et la publication de la meilleure méthode d'enseignement à adopter dans les écoles fondées par le vilayet.

(*e.*) L'encouragement des beaux-arts.

(*f.*) Donner secours pour la propagation de l'instruction et l'amélioration du

sort des professeurs et précepteurs âgés, infirmes, et hors d'état de se suffire à eux-mêmes.

(*g.*) Donner leur avis sur les lois et règlements concernant l'instruction publique.

Art. 60. Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique préside au Conseil de l'Instruction Publique du vilayet; il prend soin des affaires du vilayet relatives à l'instruction, de la mise à exécution des réformes arrêtées, de l'exécution complète des dispositions du règlement de l'Instruction Publique et des ordres émanés du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, de l'inspection des écoles et bibliothèques du vilayet. Il présente par écrit au Vali ses considérations relativement à la propagation de l'instruction, aux Conseils d'Instruction Publique qui seraient formés dans les sandjaks, et à la prompte mise à exécution du Règlement de l'Instruction Publique. Il prendra aussi les mesures nécessaires à la fondation des écoles dans les localités qui n'en auraient pas.

Art. 61. Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique préparera un annuaire, qu'il présentera au Vali, et qui sera publié dans le journal du vilayet, résumant les faits relatifs à l'Instruction Publique dans le vilayet, et les améliorations introduites.

Art. 62. Les Vakoufs seront abandonnés aux vilayets où ils se trouvent, pour que les fonds en soient affectés à l'instruction publique; ces revenus reviendront aux écoles de la communauté à laquelle les Vakoufs appartiennent; ils seront administrés et employés par l'entremise du Conseil de cette communauté, et sous le contrôle du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique.

Art. 63. Les legs pour fondations pieuses, jusqu'à concurrence du tiers des biens du testateur, et dont l'affectation ne serait pas explicitement déterminée, seront affectés à l'Instruction Publique du vilayet. Les legs dans chaque communauté appartiendront aux écoles de cette communauté.

Des Attributions de l'Alay Bey ("Colonel des Gendarmes").

Art. 64. L'Alay Bey aura pour principales attributions:—

(*a.*) D'enrôler, de former, d'instruire, d'armer, et d'équiper, conformément aux Règlements de la gendarmerie et de la police, les gendarmes du vilayet; de diriger l'Administration de la police, et de faire distribuer et payer les appointements de ses subordonnés.

(*b.*) De faire construire et surveiller les dépôts et magasins de la gendarmerie, et de faire dresser les rôles des gendarmes et les comptes annuels.

(*c.*) De veiller, en se conformant aux ordres du Vali, à la sécurité du vilayet et d'assurer le bon fonctionnement de la police.

Titre IV.—*Des Conseils-Généraux de Vilayet.*

Composition du Conseil Général.

Art. 65. Le Conseil Général du vilayet sera composé:—(1) de ceux qui en sont membres de droit; (2) des membres élus par la population; (3) des membres nommés par le Vali.

La moitié des membres du Conseil étant renouvelée tous les deux ans, le Conseil aura une durée de quatre années.

Art. 66. Les membres de droit du Conseil Général sont:—(1) le Mufti, le Nakib et les Chefs religieux des diverses communautés; (2) les Présidents des Cours d'Appel et le Naïb de la ville; (3) les Inspecteurs de Justice et des Finances.

Art. 67. Pour être membre du Conseil Général, il faut être natif du vilayet ou y avoir demeuré pendant cinq ans.

Art. 68. Les membres élus du Conseil Général seront nommés au scrutin secret par les Conseils des nahiés. Chaque caza du vilayet formera une circonscription électorale pouvant élire deux membres.

Art. 69. Une moitié des membres élus au Conseil Général sera renouvelée tous les deux ans. Les membres à renouveler pour la première fois, seront désignés par le sort, et les circonscriptions électorales dont ils étaient les élus, en nommeront d'autres. On remplacera dans les autres renouvellements, ceux des membres qui auront exercé leurs fonctions pendant quatre ans. En cas de décès ou de démission d'un membre, le remplaçant restera en fonction ce qui restait de temps à son prédécesseur pour remplir la période de quatre années.

Art. 70. Il sera donné aux membres élus pour la durée de leurs fonctions et pour

leurs frais de route (aller et retour) des sommes d'argent, dont le montant sera fixé d'après le calcul du nombre de jours, conformément à ce qui sera dit dans le Titre des élections.

Art. 71. Le Vali nommera au Conseil Général des membres au nombre du tiers des membres élus, choisis autant que possible en nombre égal dans les trois classes qui suivent:—(*a.*) les grands commerçants et industriels; (*b*) les fonctionnaires civils et les Juges; (*c.*) et enfin les hommes de science et d'instruction. La moitié de ces membres sera aussi renouvelée tous les deux ans. Le premier renouvellement portera sur les membres désignés par le sort, tout comme pour les membres élus. Dans les autres renouvellements, on remplacera ceux des membres qui ont complété la période de leurs fonctions. En l'absence d'un membre nommé, le Vali, pour le remplacer, en désignera un autre aussi promptement que possible.

De la Réunion du Conseil Général et de la Délibération des Questions.

Art. 72. Les Conseils Généraux des vilayets se réunissent au chef-lieu du vilayet, au commencement d'Octobre de chaque année. Leur session durera quarante-cinq jours au plus. A la fin de ces quarante-cinq jours ou plus tôt si les bureaux font connaître au Vali que le Conseil a terminé la discussion de toutes les questions, le Vali ordonne la clôture de la session. Tous les ans, le Vali prononcera l'ouverture et la session en personne ou par l'entremise d'un fonctionnaire agissant en son nom.

Art. 73. Si le Vali le juge nécessaire, c'est-à-dire si la discussion des questions importantes ne se termine pas au bout des quarante-cinq jours, il peut prolonger la session de quinze jours, mais il doit en indiquer les motifs à la Sublime Porte.

Art. 74. Le Vali peut dissoudre le Conseil Général, lorsqu'il le juge nécessaire, et il en présente les motifs à la Sublime Porte. Dans ce cas, le Conseil Général tout entier sera renouvelé.

La feuille officielle qui sera publiée par le Vali et annonçant la dissolution du Conseil Général, portera la convocation des électeurs dans deux mois, et la réunion du Conseil Général aura lieu dans les deux mois suivants.

Art. 75. Le Vali nommera à la Présidence du Conseil Général un des trois candidats que ce Conseil aura choisis au commencement de chaque session.

Le Conseil Général aura deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires qu'il choisira pour chaque session, immédiatement après la nomination du President.

Le plus âgé des membres du Conseil le présidera jusqu'à la nomination du Président par le Vali, et deux des membres les moins âgés et les plus capables rempliront les fonctions de Secrétaire, jusqu'à ce que les Secrétaires aient été élus.

Art. 76. Pour que les délibérations du Conseil soient valables, il faut qu'au moins la moitié plus un de ses membres constitutifs soient présents. Les décisions seront données à la majorité absolue des membres présents. En cas de partage des voix, la proposition soumise aux délibérations sera repoussée.

Pour les élections faites par le Conseil, si la majorité absolue n'est pas obtenue au premier tour de scrutin, la majorité relative suffira au second tour.

Art. 77. Chaque membre doit voter en personne. Le vote sera donné par levé et assis, ou bien à l'appel nominal.

Art. 78. Le Président maintiendra le bon ordre dans le Conseil. Il fera sortir immédiatement du Conseil celui des membres qui aura dit quelque parole offensante contre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, contre la famille Impériale, contre le Vali ou contre le Conseil Général. Ce membre sera exclu du Conseil Général pour la durée de la session au plus; dans le cas où il devrait être condamné à une peine pour ce qu'il aura dit, l'affaire sera déférée au Tribunal compétent où il sera procédé à son Jugement. Nul, sauf les agents de police en service, ne pourra pénétrer armé dans la salle du Conseil Général.

Art. 79. Les délibérations du Conseil General seront publiques. En cas de tumulte ou de trouble de la part des auditeurs, le Président pourra faire évacuer la salle.

Art. 80. Les membres du Conseil à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, sont égaux en droits, en privilèges, et en devoirs. Ils sont libres de voter ou de ne pas voter, comme aussi d'exprimer leur avis.

Des Attributions du Conseil Général.

Art. 81. Le Conseil Général présentera au Vali, par procès-verbal, ses considérations sur les questions qui rentrent dans ses attributions et qui lui auront été

soumises par lui, ainsi que sur les modifications de règlements. Ce procès-verbal développera les motifs pour lesquels le Conseil désire l'adoption d'un projet ayant trait à l'intérêt public ou à la modification d'un règlement.

Art. 82. Le Vali présentera au Conseil, au commencement de chaque session annuelle, le projet de budget de l'année suivante. En même temps que ce projet de budget, le compte de l'année précédente sera présenté au Conseil par le Vali.

Le Conseil Général examine le côté pécuniaire du budget et du compte annuel. Le Vali assistera aux délibérations du Conseil, quand il le voudra; et lorsqu'il ne s'y trouve pas en personne, il pourra déléguer aux délibérations le fonctionnaire du vilayet qu'il voudra.

Art. 83. Le Conseil, en examinant le projet de budget et y trouvant des parties sur lesquelles il y aurait à faire des réductions, exprimera les motifs sur lesquels est basée sa décision à ce sujet, et indiquera en même temps l'Article sur lequel portera la réduction et le mode de réduction à adopter.

Art. 84. Le Conseil Général du vilayet délibère sur les moyens de fonder des écoles et de propager l'instruction publique; sur la construction des ponts et chaussées; sur les contenus et indications des Tableaux qui auront été dressés, conformément au règlement spécial et relatif aux distances, aux travaux, et aux dépenses à effectuer pour les routes dont la construction pendant l'année aura été jugée nécessaire pour le vilayet; sur les moyens de faciliter et de développer le commerce et l'industrie, sur l'assiette et la modification de l'impôt, sans toutefois en diminuer le montant principal, dans les localités où l'inscription immobilière n'aura pas encore été appliquée; sur la suppression ou la diminution d'un impôt qui n'aurait plus de raison d'être; sur la recherche des moyens de prospérité en général; sur la vente, l'achat, et l'échange, conformément aux lois et règlements y relatifs, des terres et propriétés publiques ayant rapport à l'utilité publique, telles que les places et les lieux de promenade; sur la réparation ou la reconstruction des bâtiments publics, tels que les hôpitaux, les maisons de correction, et les écoles, ainsi que sur leur administration; sur les entreprises et les conventions d'utilité publique; sur les rapports adressés par les Cercles Municipaux et les Conseils Communaux, concernant les subventions destinées aux dépenses de ces bâtiments; sur les modes d'exécution des fondations utiles.

Art. 85. Le Conseil Général examine aussi les Rapports dressés par les Conseils d'Administration des sandjaks, relatifs aux revenus fixes, et présente son avis au Vali.

Art. 86. Les Conseils Généraux de Vilayet sont autorisés à décider une augmentation d'impôts. Cette somme additionnelle introduite dans le Tableau budgétaire du vilayet pourra varier de un aux cinq centièmes au plus de l'impôt annuel de chaque vilayet; elle sera employée aux travaux utiles et à l'instruction; et cela, en outre des sommes affectées à chaque vilayet et dont le mode d'emploi est laissé au jugement et au choix de ce vilayet.

Art. 87. Quant au mode d'emploi des sommes qui, d'après l'Article ci-dessus, seront affectées à chaque vilayet, ainsi que de l'impôt additionnel que sera perçu dans la proportion de 1 à 5 pour cent de l'impôt général annuel, le produit de ces sources de revenus étant la propriété du vilayet auquel ils se rapportent, il sera laissé à son entière disposition. Les constructions auxquelles ces sommes seront affectées rentrent dans les attributions des Cercles Municipaux et des Conseils Communaux.

Donc, en exceptant les chemins particuliers de premier ordre qui se trouvent dans les nahiés, les cazas, les livas, et le vilayet, les sommes en question seront affectées :—

(*a.*) A la construction, à la réparation, et à l'entretien des routes particulières de second ordre qui relieront les nahiés entre eux et au caza, les cazas entre eux et au liva, et les livas entre eux et au siège du vilayet, ainsi qu'à la construction des ports et à l'assainissement des marais.

(*b.*) A l'administration et à la fondation des écoles privées établies ou à établir, selon les besoins locaux, dans les lieux pour lesquels aucune somme d'argent n'est affectée dans le Tableau budgétaire de l'Instruction Publique, ou qui n'ont aucune espèce de ressources d'autre part.

(*c.*) Aux secours pécuniaires à accorder pour frais de construction et d'administration de maisons de correction et d'hôpitaux à établir par les soins des Cercles Municipaux.

Par conséquent, un Tableau budgétaire indiquant les établissements et les constructions à créer pendant une année dans un vilayet, et les sommes qui seront affectées à chacun de ces établissements, sera soumis par le Vali au Conseil Général du vilayet,

avec un Rapport exposant les motifs; et les décisions qui seront données d'après les règles par ce Conseil, après examen minutieux sous tous rapports, seront immédiatement mises à exécution, conformément au règlement établi et à ce relatif.

Art. 88. Les listes d'observations qui seront dressées chaque année, relativement à la modification des charges des localités dans lesquelles l'inscription foncière est appliquée, seront examinées dans le Conseil Général du vilayet, après discussion dans les Conseils des livas.

Art. 89. Lorsque le Gouvernement Impérial augmente les charges du vilayet, ou qu'il impose une charge, en vertu d'une loi spéciale, le Conseil Général délibère sur la répartition de ces charges additionnelles entre les livas.

Art. 90. Le Conseil Général, en outre des questions spécialement indiquées dans les Articles précédents, donne son avis sur toutes les questions soumises à ses délibérations par la Sublime Porte ou par le Vali et ayant rapport à l'Administration. Les Conseils des communautés des cazas étant sous sa juridiction, il les surveille aussi.

Art. 91. Le Conseil Général dans l'examen et la discussion des questions relatives aux ponts et chaussées, à l'instruction publique, au commerce, et à l'agriculture, prendra pour base les cahiers qui auront été dressés par les préposés spéciaux. Il fait au besoin comparaître en sa présence ces fonctionnaires pour se faire donner des éclaircissements.

Art. 92. Lorsque le Conseil Général aura connaissance et s'apercevra de l'inexécution des lois et règlements établis par le Gouvernement Impérial, ou d'une infraction à leurs dispositions, dans quelque partie du vilayet que ce soit, il aura le droit et la faculté d'en porter plainte aux Départements et postes respectifs et de leur indiquer les délinquants.

Art. 93. Les décisions du Conseil Général étant relatées chacune dans un procès-verbal ("mazbata"), celles dont l'exécution ne dépend que du Vali et du Conseil Général seront immédiatement appliquées. Quant à celles qui sont subordonnées à une approbation supérieure, elles seront soumises à la Sublime Porte ou aux Ministères qu'elles concernent, et exécutées conformément aux instructions qui seront reçues.

Art. 94. Les résumés des délibérations du Conseil Général, rédigés par le Secrétaire du Conseil, seront publiés dans le journal du vilayet.

Art. 95. Les membres du Conseil Général ne peuvent jamais être poursuivis pour les opinions qu'ils auront émises pendant les délibérations, tant qu'elles sont conformes aux attributions du Conseil.

Conseil Permanent.

Art. 96. Le Conseil Permanent sera composé de dix membres qui seront nommés au scrutin secret par les membres du Conseil Général. Les membres du Conseil Permanent sont renouvelés dans les premiers jour de chaque réunion du Conseil Général. Si pendant la durée d'une session, la place d'un membre ou d'un Mulazim ("Surnuméraire") du Conseil Permanent vient à être vacante, il sera immédiatement pourvu à cette vacance. Si la vacance a lieu dans l'intervalle de deux sessions, il y sera pourvu dès la première réunion du Conseil Général.

Les membres du Conseil Permanent peuvent être indéfiniment réélus. Ils ne sont pas rétribués.

Art. 97. Le Conseil Permanent nomme son Président, son Vice-Président, et son Secrétaire. La présence de sept de ses membres au moins est nécessaire pour la validité de ses votes.

Art. 98. Les Savants et les Chefs spirituels des diverses communautés qui, appartenant au Conseil Général, ne font pas partie du Conseil Permanent, peuvent être invités à assister avec voix consultative aux délibérations de ce Conseil qui ont trait aux intérêts des communautés.

Art. 99. Les attributions du Conseil Permanent étant comprises dans celles du Conseil Général, le Conseil Permanent étudiera les questions qui lui seront déférées par le Conseil Général, ainsi que celles que le Vali lui soumettra.

Art. 100. Les principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet peuvent être invités par le Conseil Permanent à donner verbalement ou par écrit des explications sur diverses questions intéressant le vilayet. Dans le cas où le Conseil en ferait la demande par écrit, les documents ayant trait à l'administration financière du vilayet doivent lui lui être livrés en échange d'un récépissé.

Le Conseil peut, en outre des Directeurs-Généraux, avoir recours aussi, par l'intermédiaire du Directeur-Général, aux divers Chefs de service.

Les Directeurs-Généraux veilleront à ce que les pièces et renseignements qui leur seront demandés par le Conseil lui soient immédiatement fournis.

Le Conseil Permanent peut proposer au Conseil Général la mise en Jugement des fonctionnaires accusés de quelque délit dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Quinze jours au moins avant la réunion du Conseil Général, le projet de budget de l'année, les comptes de l'année, écoulée, ainsi que les documents y relatifs devront être présentés au Conseil Permanent, qui soumettra au Conseil Général le projet de budget et les comptes ainsi que les comptes-rendus des travaux qu'il aura accomplis.

Titre V.—*Des Imprimeries.*

Art. 101. Dans chaque siège de vilayet l'Administration établira une Imprimerie et fera publier un journal sous sa surveillance. Un Directeur spécial devra veiller à la bonne organisation de l'Imprimerie, à la rentrée de ses revenus, et au réglement de ses comptes en dû temps ainsi qu'à la mise en ordre de sa comptabilité.

Art. 102. Les frais d'achat du papier ainsi que ceux d'impression des livres ("defter"), ilmonkhabers, et feuilles diverses que fera imprimer l'Administration sont acquittés par la Caisse du vilayet conformément aux règles établies. Les revenus de l'almanach, du journal, et des mandats de comparution appartiendront à l'Imprimerie. L'almanach devra contenir tous les renseignements statistiques concernant le vilayet.

Art. 103. Le produit net des revenus de l'Imprimerie sera dévolu à la Maison Correctionnelle et à l'Ecole des Arts et Métiers du vilayet. Les livres de compte de l'Imprimerie seront vérifiés tous les trois mois par le Defterdar du vilayet; il en sera dressé deux exemplaires qui devront être révisés et approuvés par le Conseil d'Administration. Après la publication de ces comptes par le journal du vilayet, l'un des exemplaires sus-mentionnés sera conservé dans les Archives de la comptabilité et l'autre par le Directeur de l'Imprimerie.

Titre VI.—*Des Subdivisions des Vilayets et de leur Administration.*

Art. 104. Les nahiés ("communes") constitueront la base de la division civile du vilayet. Ainsi, les vilayets seront partagés en livas, ceux-ci en cazas, et ces derniers en nahiés. Les villes et les villages seront divisés conformément aux lois Municipales des vilayets, en un ou plusieurs Cercles Municipaux. Chaque Cercle Municipal est considéré comme un nahié.

Art. 105. Les limites des vilayets et leurs centres d'administration sont, en considération de l'importance et des facilités de commerce, déterminés par le Ministère de l'Intérieur. Le Conseil Général du vilayet établira le nombre des sandjaks ou livas, en tenant compte de l'étendue et des exigences régionales, des facilités de communication et de commerce. Le Conseil du liva assisté d'une Commission composée d'hommes compétents, déterminera le nombre des cazas et leurs centres. Cette décision devra être soumise au Conseil Général, et au besoin, révisée par lui. Les divisions en nahiés ou communes seront établies d'abord par les Conseils Communaux, puis soumises aux Conseils des Livas.

Les divisions et compositions des livas et des cazas, d'abord approuvées par le Conseil Général, seront indiquées au Ministère de l'Intérieur et appliquées conformément à un Iradé Impérial qui s'y rapportera. Les subdivisions des nahiés seront appliquées en conformité de la décision du Conseil Général. Les Tableaux d'organisation des nahiés seront adressés au Ministère de l'Intérieur.

Art. 106. Les villages à proximité les uns des autres et assimilables quant à la plupart de leurs occupations, constitueront un nahié. Un nahié comprend de 5,000 à 10,000 habitants des deux sexes. Une ville présentant ce nombre d'habitants constituera un nahié. Mais suivant les lieux et les circonstances, le nombre d'habitants d'une commune pourra être inférieur ou supérieur à ces limites. Les villages qui ne peuvent à eux seuls constituer un nahié seront annexés à la ville ou au village voisin. En principe, les centres d'administration des nahiés ne devront pas se trouver à plus de trois heures (15 kilom.) de distance des villages compris dans la commune. Les limites des propriétés, terrains, près et prairies qui appartiennent aux villages annexés à un nahié ne devront pas être modifiées dans l'établissement des divisions communales et continueront à être administrés par ces villages.

Les Cercles Municipaux sont divisés en quartiers. Un quartier dans une ville doit être constitué au moins par cinquante maisons. Chaque quartier est considéré comme un village.

Art. 107. Les divisions administratives étant déterminées et établies, toute modification aux limites des livas et des cazas ne peut être effectuée que par Iradé Impérial. Les modifications aux limites des communes sont effectuées conformément aux décisions des Conseils Généraux. Mais le Vali devra les indiquer au Ministère de l'Intérieur dans le but de rectifier les registres.

Titre VII.—*De l'Administration des Sandjaks.*

Art. 108. Les affaires civiles et financières ainsi que la police d'un sandjak sont confiées à un Mutessarif ("Gouverneur") nommé par Iradé Impérial. Le sandjak qui comprend le chef-lieu du vilayet aura aussi un Mutessarif. Le Mutessarif a pour Chef le Vali du vilayet. Les Mutessarifs dans leurs sandjaks sont chargés d'exécuter tous les ordres du Gouvernement, d'appliquer les instructions écrites émanant de l'administration du vilayet, d'administrer les affaires intérieures du sandjak déterminées par la loi et qui sont de son ressort. Le Mutessarif, soit pour se conformer aux lois et règlements administratifs et soit de sa propre initiative, soumet au Conseil d'Administration les affaires du liva. Mais il est tenu comme responsable de tous ses actes même conformes aux opinions de ce Conseil.

Art. 109. Le Mutessarif se trouve le représentant du Vali dans le sandjak qu'il administre. Il pourra publier des Ordonnances et instructions obligatoires à la totalité ou à une partie de la population du sandjak pour des affaires nécessaires, se renfermant dans les limites des lois et règlements en vigueur et des ordres qu'il reçoit du Vali. Il choisira et nommera les employés subalternes et les hommes de service dont la nomination n'appartient pas au Vali ou au Caïmacam ou qui ne se fait pas par voie d'élection.

La police du liva étant placée sous les ordres du Mutessarif, celui-ci répond de la tranquillité et de la sécurité publiques du liva.

Il a encore parmi ses attributions celle d'élever réclamation devant un Tribunal pour les affaires administratives de sa compétence du liva.

Il surveille l'administration des nahiés et celle des établissements utiles qui, ne se rapportant pas aux cultes, jouissent de la qualité de personne juridique et morale. Le propriétaire de ces établissements, en cas de refus d'autorisation, peut recourir au Vali, et les tiers intéressés peuvent faire opposition par devant les Tribunaux.

En outre de ces attributions, le Mutessarif s'occupera des questions énumérées dans les Tableaux qui suivent l'Article 113, et en général de celles relatives au sandjak et aux cazas et qui ne dépendent pas du Vali du vilayet, du Conseil d'Administration du liva et des Cercles Municipaux.

Le Conseil Général du vilayet pourra exprimer son avis sur la modification des Tableaux ci-dessus désignés.

Le Mutessarif devra soumettre aussi au Conseil d'Administration, quand cela sera nécessaire, les affaires indiquées dans ces Tableaux.

Art. 110. Le Mutessarif surveillera les diverses Administrations du sandjak.

Art. 111. Lorsque le Mutessarif s'absentera du sandjak, il pourra désigner un remplaçant parmi les autres fonctionnaires. Si un poste de Mutessarif devient vacant, le Vali pourvoiera provisoirement à cette vacance par la nomination de celui des fonctionnaires qu'il jugera convenable. Le Mutessarif pourra désigner un chargé de fonctions qui s'occupera de celles des affaires que le Mutessarif a, conformément aux lois et règlements, l'autorisation de déléguer à un autre fonctionnaire.

Il pourra également charger la personne qu'il jugera convenable de remplacer provisoirement un Caïmacam mis en disponibilité ou dans l'impossibilité de remplir ses fonctions par suite d'une absence ou de tout autre motif.

Art. 112. Les gendarmes du sandjak se trouvant sous les ordres du Mutessarif, il les distribuera et les placera dans les cazas conformément aux instructions du Vali; et selon les exigences, il pourra faire passer les gendarmes d'un caza à un autre. Le Chef de la gendarmerie du liva agira sous les ordres du Mutessarif, et conformément aux dispositions du Règlement de la gendarmerie.

Art. 113. Il y aura dans chaque sandjak en qualité de Chefs de l'Administration Financière: (1) Un mouhassébédji ("Chef Comptable"); (2) un Chef Percepteur; (3) un

Caissier. Ces fonctionnaires subordonnés au Mutessarif, seront directement responsables vis-à-vis du Defterdar.

Art. 114. Le Mutessarif et le Moulassébédji étant en commun responsable sous le rapport des affaires financières et de comptabilité, leurs attributions sont déterminées par un règlement spécial.

Les affaires de comptabilité sont confiées à un bureau de finances sous les ordres du Mouhassébédji qui agira en conformité des règles qui lui seront indiqués par le Defterdar du vilayet.

Art. 115. La correspondance du liva est confiée à un Directeur de la Correspondance qui, avec l'aide d'un Bureau sous ses ordres, rédigera toutes les lettres officielles et veillera à la conservation des registres et des archives.

Art. 116. Le Directeur de la Correspondance désignera les employés du bureau de la correspondance, enregistrera les documents aux archives pour les conserver. Il signera les duplicatas des pièces relatives à l'Administration, ainsi qu'aux décisions du Conseil du liva. Il devra organiser la correspondance et les registres des cazas du sandjak. Il devra aussi veiller à la sécurité du dépôt des archives.

Dans le cas où il s'apercevrait d'un défaut dans les affaires de la correspondance et des registres d'un liva, ou de l'incapacité des fonctionnaires qui en sont chargés, il devra par un rapport indiquer au Mutessarif d'y remédier.

Les Mutessarifs s'occupent aussi des affaires indiquées dans les Tableaux suivants :

Premier Tableau.

(*a.*) Ils font dresser les projets, et devis des travaux à exécuter pour le compte des sandjaks.

(*b.*) Ils font acheter pour le compte des sandjaks, les livres et ouvrages relatifs à l'Administration, et particuliers aux bibliothèques des Mutessarifats et des Caïmacamats.

(*c.*) Ils font dresser le budget des travaux publics du sandjak.

(*d.*) Ils s'occupent du transfert des prisonniers d'une maison de détention du sandjak à une autre.

(*e.*) Ils accordent des congés de quinze jours au plus aux fonctionnaires des prisons.

(*f.*) Ils s'occupent de l'administration intérieure des dépôts de mendicité.

(*g.*) Ils accordent l'autorisation de transporter les morts à un autre sandjak ou à l'étranger.

(*h.*) Ils accordent des congés de quinze jours au plus aux inspecteurs de la police.

(*i.*) Ils examinent le budget et la comptabilité des nahiés qui n'ont pas adopté des impôts extraordinaires.

(*j.*) Ils approuvent les conditions des souscriptions à ouvrir et des traités de gré à gré à passer pour la réalisation des emprunts des villes autres que le chef-lieu du sandjak.

(*k.*) Ils approuvent les affaires d'un genre quelconque, telles que ventes, achats, échanges et répartition d'objets de toute espèce de la part des nahiés.

(*l.*) Ils examinent et approuvent les dons, legs, et transfert aux nahiés ou aux Administrations d'œuvres pieuses de biens de toutes sortes, d'une valeur de plus de £T. 100, et au sujet desquels il y aurait des réclamations soulevées de la part d'une famille.

(*m.*) Ils approuvent les opérations des nahiés relatives aux biens de nature et de valeur quelconques.

(*n.*) Ils déterminent la durée des enquêtes pour les travaux de construction des ponts à péage et des routes ordinaires.

(*o.*) Ils déterminent et font régler les frais d'expertise mis à la charge de l'Administration, notamment en matière de subventions spéciales pour dégradations extraordinaires causées aux routes ordinaires.

(*p.*) Ils accordent des subsides pour les routes ordinaires.

(*q*). Ils déterminent la part des revenus du sandjak, à affecter à l'achat des instruments et outils pour les routes ordinaires, ou bien aux dépenses d'imprimés spéciaux.

Deuxième Tableau.

(*a.*) Ils accordent la permission d'établir des foires et marchés, après en avoir obtenu l'autorisation du vilayet.

(*b.*) Ils examinent et approuvent les Règlements de police des nahiés relatifs aux foires et marchés, aux ports, et autres lieux publics.

(*c.*) Ils autorisent les établissements insalubres dans les formes déterminées pour cette nature d'établissements.

(*d.*) Ils accordent, sur l'avis conforme du Directeur des Douanes, l'autorisation d'établir des fabriques et ateliers dans le rayon des Douanes.

(*e.*) Ils autorisent l'établissement des fabriques destinées à produire des eaux minérales artificielles.

(*f.*) Ils autorisent l'ouverture de dépôts d'eaux minérales naturelles et artificielles.

Troisième Tableau.

(*a.*) Ils cèdent les terrains de l'Etat situés sur le tracé des routes d'éyalet, de sandjak, et des routes ordinaires.

(*b.*) Ils échangent les terrains libérés par un changement de tracé des routes.

(*c.*) Ils permettent l'usage provisoire des bâtiments du vilayet ou du sandjak.

Quatrième Tableau.

(*a.*) Ils autorisent dans les rivières accessibles aux navires et aux caïqs, l'établissement de prises d'eaux à l'aide de machines, à la condition de ne pas altérer dans des proportions considérables le régime des eaux ;

(*b.*) Ils autorisent l'installation provisoire de constructions sur les bords des rivières accessibles aux navires et aux caïqs, même si cette installation modifie la profondeur et la direction des eaux.

(*c.*) Ils autorisent l'installation sur les rivières non navigables, de moulins, fabriques, barrages, pompes, canaux d'irrigation, machines hydrauliques servant au lavage des minerais, moulins servant au broyage des minéraux, instruments servant à la préparation des minéraux, et enfin toutes sortes de constructions nouvelles de cette nature.

(*d.*) Ils régularisent celles des constructions sus-indiquées qui ne se trouvent pas sous une autorisation régulière, ou bien ils modifient les règlements existants.

(*e.*) Ils prennent les mesures nécessaires pour l'amélioration et l'entretien des rivières non accessibles aux navires et aux caïqs.

(*f.*) Ils forment des Syndicats composés de propriétaires intéressés à la construction et à l'entretien des digues de défense contre la mer, les fleuves navigables ou non, les rivières et les torrents ; des canaux d'irrigation et des travaux d'assainissement, lorsque ces propriétaires sont d'accord sur l'exécution de ces travaux et sur la répartition des dépenses.

(*g.*) Ils autorisent la construction au bord des fleuves et des rivières, de débarcadères pour faciliter l'accès des navires, et déterminent leur Tarif et leur mode d'organisation.

(*h.*) Ils vérifient et acceptent la liquidation des plus-values et moins-values, en fin de bail, en matériel des bacs affermés au profit de la province.

(*i.*) Ils fixent la durée des enquêtes à ouvrir.

(*j.*) Ils approuvent les adjudications autorisées par le Vali pour les travaux imputables sur les fonds du vilayet ou du sandjak, dans les cas où les soumissions ne renferment pas une clause extra-conditionnelle, et où il n'aurait été présenté aucune réclamation ou protestation. Dans les cas où elles renfermeraient une clause extra-conditionnelle, ou bien qu'elle donnerait lieu à une protestation, la question sera soumise au Vali.

(*k.*) Ils approuvent les augmentations de prix qui seraient réclamées pour les dépenses supplémentaires occasionnées par des constructions non prévues aux devis.

(*l.*) Ils autorisent la levée du séquestre mis sur les biens immeubles de l'entrepreneur et de ses cautions, le remboursement des cautionnements après la réception définitive des travaux, ainsi que la remise aux autorités des terres qui ne peuvent plus servir à l'entreprise.

Conseil d'Administration de Liva.

Art. 117. Il y aura au chef-lieu de chaque sandjak un Conseil d'Administration placé sous la présidence du Mutessarif, et composé de six membres élus par la population, moitié Musulmans et moitié non-Musulmans; le Mufti de la ville, les Chefs religieux des communautés, le Mouhasséhédji, le Directeur de la Correspondance, en font partie de droit; dans les villes où il y a plus d'un Chef religieux, ils se succèderont à tour de rôle tous les mois. En l'absence du Mutessarif, celui-ci désignera pour présider le Conseil, un fonctionnaire autre que le Mouhasséhédji. Les sandjaks comprenant le chef-lieu du vilayet auront aussi un Conseil composé de la même manière. Le Conseil d'Administration étant préposé à l'examen et à la discussion du mode d'administration des affaires civiles, financières et de celles concernant la police, la perception, les travaux publics, le tapou, l'agriculture, et les Vakoufs, n'aura aucune ingérence dans les affaires judiciaires, à l'exception du jugement des fonctionnaires conformément au Titre spécial.

Art. 118. Le Conseil d'Administration se réunit deux fois par semaine et plus s'il y a lieu.

Art. 119. Le Conseil d'Administration du sandjak, conformément à ses règlements, est chargé de la rédaction et conclusion des contrats, des achats, et des ventes de toutes sortes de l'autorité, après les avoir mis en adjudication; de l'administration ou de la mise en adjudication, suivant les ordres du Gouvernement Impérial, des revenus des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes; de la mise en adjudication des forêts de l'Etat, de la construction et réparation des édifices publics; du contrôle des affectations et des dépenses de la gendarmerie; des revenus et des dépenses générales du liva, de l'examen de la comptabilité des Caisses d'utilité publique et du contrôle de leur état, de l'inspection et de la conservation de tous les biens meubles et immeubles du Gouvernement, de l'examen des décisions prises par les Conseils des arrondissements Municipaux et par les Conseils des communes comprises dans le caza du chef-lieu du liva, de la construction des routes nécessaires qui doivent relier les cazas, de l'agriculture, du commerce, et d'autres questions d'utilité publique, du mode de répartition entre les cazas des impôts dont l'assiette sur les habitants a été ordonnée par une loi spéciale, ainsi que de la répartition de la quote-part d'impôt incombant au caza central entre les nahiés de ce caza, de la fondation des écoles, de la désignation et du changement des emplacements des foires, des marchés, et des cimetières, de l'examen et de la discussion de la vente, conformément à la loi y relative, des terres qui, n'ayant pas de propriétaires, reviennent à l'Etat, de l'examen et de la discussion des questions examinées en première instance par le Conseil du caza, de l'examen et de la discussion de toutes les affaires administratives que le Mutessarif lui soumettra, enfin, de la présentation des procès-verbaux de ses décisions sur ces matières.

Art. 120. Le Conseil d'Administration s'occupe, conformément au Titre spécial y relatif, de l'accusation et de l'interrogatoire des fonctionnaires ayant manqué à l'exercice de leurs devoirs, ainsi que du règlement des conflits d'attribution pouvant résulter entre les Administrations, les Conseils, et les fonctionnaires du liva.

Art. 121. Les Mutessarifs exécutent les décisions du Conseil d'Administration, si elles sont dans les limites de leur compétence réglementaire; quant à celles qui sont au-dessus de leur compétence, ils demandent l'autorisation de l'autorité supérieure, et y donnent suite conformément à l'ordre écrit qu'ils en reçoivent.

Art. 122. Le Conseil d'Administration ne peut entrer en délibération tant que, pour les questions d'accusation, les deux tiers, et pour les questions administratives, la moitié plus un des membres qui le composent ne sont pas présents. De même que les Conseils d'Administration devront dans le cas d'accusation contre des fonctionnaires, avoir égard d'une façon complète, aux règles de procédure ayant cours dans les Tribunaux généraux, ils doivent aussi plus spécialement veiller à l'exécution des règles ci-après:

Un fonctionnaire étant accusé, en cas d'absence du Procureur Impérial, le plus haut fonctionnaire de la division à laquelle appartient l'accusé, c'est-à-dire le Mouhasséhédji, si l'accusé appartient à la division des finances, les Directeurs des Douanes, s'il appartient à la section des Douanes, &c., remplit le rôle de Procureur du Gouvernement ou bien substitue à ces fonctions par une procuration, un des fonctionnaires placés sous ses ordres. Le fonctionnaire accusé aussi, à la condition de se trouver présent au Tribunal, peut, s'il le veut, nommer un représentant, par acte de procuration.

Art. 123. En cas de partage des votes dans les Conseils d'Administration, la voix du Président est prépondérante.

Art. 124. Dans les décisions du Conseil d'Administration prises à la majorité des voix, les motifs de divergence des opposants sont relatés dans le procès-verbal des séances. Au lieu de contenir les sceaux de ces opposants, le mazbata indiquera qu'ils ont voté contre. Dans le cas où il le voudrait, un opposant pourrait mentionner son opinion dans ce mazbata et y apposer son cachet.

Art. 125. La correspondance des Conseils d'Administration des livas est sous la direction d'un Directeur de la Correspondance.

Art. 126. Toute la rédaction de la correspondance des Conseils d'Administration, ainsi que la conservation des registres appartenant aux attributions des Secrétaires, ceux-ci seront considérés comme responsables de ce chef.

Art. 127. C'est au Président du Conseil d'Administration qu'il appartient de désigner parmi les documents soumis à ce Conseil, ceux qui ont besoin d'être résumés, de fixer l'ordre des discussions, de réunir les voix et d'en déterminer la majorité.

Art. 128. Les Secrétaires inscrivent les noms des membres présents du Conseil, le jour et la date de la réunion, les numéros des affaires soumises et de leurs annexes, leur substance avec une clarté suffisante, le développement des décisions, l'unanimité ou la majorité des votes dans chaque décision, et les motifs de l'opposition dans les questions non résolues à l'unanimité; les procès-verbaux seront lus tout d'abord à la séance suivante, et après avoir été rectifiés par le Secrétaire, s'il y a lieu, sur l'avis et la décision du Conseil, ils seront signés et confirmés par le Président, les membres présents et les Secrétaires. La conservation de ces procès-verbaux étant confiée aux Secrétaires, ceux-ci seront responsables de ce chef.

Art. 129. Un membre élu du Conseil d'Administration du liva ne peut être mis en disponibilité et remplacé, tant qu'il n'aura pas présenté sa démission ou bien qu'il n'aura pas été condamné à la prison par un Tribunal conformément aux lois. Mais les membres sont tenus d'assister aux séances du Conseil. S'ils ont quelque motif valable pour ne pas s'y présenter un jour, ils devront préalablement en aviser le Président. On donne un avertissement à un membre pour une première absence sans motif valable; pour une seconde fois, le Président lui envoie une lettre officielle. Enfin s'il s'absente de nouveau, il est considéré comme démissionnaire, et sur une décision du Conseil, il en est fait mention dans le procès-verbal des séances. Celui qui, après ce membre, aura obtenu le plus de voix aux élections, est appelé à le remplacer.

Art. 130. Les membres des Conseils n'étant pas responsables de l'inexécution de leurs décisions, ne peuvent assumer que la responsabilité résultant d'abus dans l'exercice de leurs attributions. Ils ont isolément ou en commun le droit de signaler au Ministère de l'Intérieur les abus et les agissements de l'autorité contraires aux lois et aux règlements.

Art. 131. Les Conseillers d'Administration, les membres des Tribunaux, et tous les fonctionnaires rétribués par l'Etat ne peuvent s'adjuger par affermage ou à forfait les revenus de l'Etat.

Art. 132. Le Conseil d'Administration ne peut en aucune façon s'immiscer dans les travaux des Tribunaux du Chéri, des Tribunaux Civils, et du pouvoir exécutif. Ses attributions se bornent à l'examen des affaires administratives.

Art. 133. Les questions telles que la prohibition et la fermeture des fabriques, ateliers, et magasins dont l'institution est nuisible à la salubrité publique, ou bien contraire au règlement spécial et aux usages locaux, sont en premier lieu étudiés dans le Conseil d'Administration.

Art. 134. Les marchés, actes, ou contrats qui doivent être faits au nom de l'autorité avec un particulier, doivent être d'abord étudiés dans le Conseil d'Administration.

Art. 135. Les membres élus du Conseil d'Administration ne sont pas rétribués.

Titre VIII.—*De l'Administration des Cazas.*

Art. 136. Dans chaque caza, l'administration des affaires civiles et financières et celle de la police sont confiées à un Caïmacam nommé par Iradé Impérial. Le Caïmacam est directement subordonné au Mutessarif du liva. Il est chargé de l'exécution de tous les ordres du Gouvernement Impérial et des instructions écrites émanant de l'Administration du vilayet et du liva; il administre toutes les affaires intérieures du caza qui sont de sa compétence.

Art. 137. Le Caïmacam exécutera les ordres et instructions se rapportant à l'administration du caza, ainsi que les mesures relatives aux intérêts généraux qui

seront jugées convenables par le Vali et par le Mutessarif, pour celles qui sont de sa compétence. La police du caza relève du Caïmacam; celui-ci pourra prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires à la préservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques; si un besoin pressant le commande, il pourra, en donnant immédiatement avis au Mutessarif, demander aux Chefs des Gendarmes et des rédifs ("troupes de réserve") de faire réunir quelques corps de troupes. Il exécute les fonctions particulières qui sont mises à sa charge par les lois et règlements relatifs à l'administration générale du vilayet, et par le Tableau qui suit en supplément l'Article 141 de la présente loi.

Art. 138. Les affaires financières du caza, c'est-à-dire la perception des revenus de l'Etat et leur expédition au chef-lieu du liva, ainsi que le paiement des dépenses nécessaires rentrent dans les attributions du Caïmacam. Dans ces questions, le Mal-Mudiri est, en commun avec lui, fonctionnaire responsable. Un règlement spécial détermine les attributions respectives du Caïmacam et du Mal-Mudiri dans les questions financières et de comptabilité.

Art. 139. En outre du Mal-Mudiri, il y aura dans chaque caza un Caissier, un Percepteur, un Secrétaire de la Correspondence du caza, un Secrétaire du Cadastre, un Secrétaire pour la Statistique, et s'il y a nécessité, des aides à ces fonctionnaires, et enfin un Secrétaire du recensement de la population.

Art. 140. La gendarmerie du caza étant sous les ordres de Caïmacam, celui-ci l'emploiera en se conformant aux ordres que lui donnerait le Mutessarif et aux dispositions du règlement de la police.

Art. 141. Toutes les affaires du caza étant confinées au Caïmacam, celui-ci a les pouvoirs de Mutessarif dans celles des affaires du liva qui sont relatives à l'administration du caza. Il est interdit au Caïmacam de s'immiscer dans les affaires judiciaires, d'user de son influence au sujet des procès pendants devant les Tribunaux. Mais lorsqu'il aura remarqué une irrégularité par rapport aux règlements des Tribunaux, ou bien incapacité ou abus de la part des fonctionnaires des Tribunaux, il en avisera le Mutessarif. Lorsque les Présidents des Conseils Communaux s'adressent au Caïmacam pour lui demander l'autorisation de donner suite à certaines questions, celui-ci la donne par écrit pour celles de ces questions qui sont de sa compétence; quant aux questions importantes qui ne rentrent pas dans cette catégorie, il s'adresse pour elles au liva, et après en avoir reçu l'autorisation écrite, il donne aux Présidents les ordres en conséquence.

Art. 142. L'officier de gendarmerie du plus haut rang du caza est le Commandant des gendarmes de ce caza; mais suivant les dispositions du Règlement de la gendarmerie, il agira conformément aux ordres du Caïmacam.

Art. 143. Il y aura un officier de police au chef-lieu de tout caza et dans les villes de plus de 4,000 habitants. Cet officier de police prêtera son concours au Caïmacam pour les affaires relatives à la police générale, et aux Réis et Mudirs pour celles relatives à la police des villes et villages. Les fonctions de l'officier de police du chef-lieu du caza s'exerceront dans tout le caza, et celles de l'officier de police d'une autre ville s'exerceront dans les lieux qui lui seront désignés par le Caïmacam.

Art. 144. Les devoirs et attributions de l'officier, ainsi que ses rapports avec l'administration de la gendarmerie, sont indiqués dans le règlement spécial y relatif.

Les Caïmacams s'occupent aussi des Affaires indiquées ci-dessous.

(*a.*) Délivrance des passeports.
(*b.*) Délivrance des permis de chasse et de port d'armes.
(*c.*) Légalisation des signatures données par les Mudirs et les Inspecteurs de Police pour les pièces qui doivent être produites hors du caza.
(*d.*) Autorisation de mise en circulation des voitures publiques.
(*e.*) Autorisation de changement de résidence dans le caza des condamnés libérés soumis à la surveillance de la police.
(*f.*) Autorisation des débits de poisons.
(*g.*) Approbation des polices d'assurance des immeubles des mahiés.
(*h.*) Homologation des Tarifs des droits de places dans les halles, foires, et marchés.
(*i.*) Approbation des Tarifs des droits de pesage et de mesurage.
(*j.*) Autorisation des battues pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles dans les bois relevant des communes ou des établissements religieux et de bienfaisance.
(*k.*) Examen des budgets et comptes d'administration des bureaux de bienfaisance et de charité du caza.

(*l.*) Administration des biens des bureaux de bienfaisance et de charité du caza.
(*m.*) Régularisation du service intérieur dans ces établissements.
(*n.*) Acceptation des dons et des legs pour les institutions de bienfaisance du caza et des mahiés, pourvu que leur valeur n'excède pas £ T. 100, et qu'ils ne soulèvent pas de réclamations de la part des familles des donateurs.

Si le changement de résidence indiqué dans le paragraphe (*e.*) ci-dessus doit s'opérer hors du caza, c'est le Directeur de la Justice qui peut en accorder l'autorisation.

Des Conseils d'Administration de Caza.

Art. 145. Il y aura dans chaque caza un Conseil d'Administration placé sous la présidence du Caïmacam, et composé de quatre membres, élus par la population, dont deux Musulmans et deux non-Musulmans. Le Mufti de la ville, les Chefs spirituels des communautés, le Mal-Mudiri, le Secrétaire de la Correspondance en font partie de droit. Dans les villes où il y a plus d'un Chef spirituel, ils se succèdent à tour de rôle tous les mois.

Art. 146. Le Conseil d'Administration du caza a pour attributions qu'il exerce conformément à l'ordre écrit qui lui sera transmis du liva, l'administration et la mise en adjudication des revenus des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes, la mise en adjudication des forêts de l'Etat, la construction et la réparation des édifices publics, le contrôle des revenus et des dépenses du caza, l'examen des comptes des Caisses d'utilité publique, l'administration et la conservation de tous les biens meubles et immeubles de l'Etat, la mise en adjudication, conformément au Règlement spécial qui s'y rapporte, des terres revenant à l'Etat, et la communication du résultat au liva, la répartition entre les cercles des mahiés des charges imposées par décision du liva à la suite d'une loi spéciale; le contrôle des décisions du Conseil Municipal du caza; l'adoption des mesures relatives aux facilités du commerce, à la prospérité de l'agriculture, à l'instruction, aux travaux d'utilité publique, aux fondations utiles, et à la salubrité publique; la mise à exécution des actes concernant la mise en accusation des fonctionnaires; l'examen de celles des adjudications, des ventes, des conventions et des dépenses que le Caïmacam est autorisé à faire en vertu du règlement ou d'ordres officielles, et la préparation ainsi que la présentation au Conseil d'Administration du liva, des renseignements préliminaires au sujet de celles auxquelles le Caïmacam n'est pas directement autorisé. Il est chargé d'examiner et de discuter les affaires décidées par délibération dans les Conseils des mahiés ainsi que toutes celles qui lui sont soumises par le Caïmacam du caza, et se rapportant à l'Administration, et de présenter les Rapports de ses décisions sur ces matières.

Art. 147. Le Conseil d'Administration du caza est chargé d'examiner et de discuter les modes d'exécution des affaires civiles et financières ainsi que de celles qui concernent la police, la perception, les travaux d'utilité publique, les impots, et l'agriculture. Il ne peut s'immiscer dans les affaires judiciaires, en dehors de la mise en accusation des fonctionnaires qui relèvent du Gouvernement et conformément au titre relatif à cette question. Il a aussi les attributions indiquées dans le Titre relatif aux Conseils d'Administration de liva.

Titre IX.—*Des Conseils de Communautés.*

Art. 148. Dans le caza, siège du liva, ainsi que dans chacun des cazas qui en relèvent, toute communauté Musulmane et non-Musulmane aura un Conseil de communauté qui sera composé de membres élus par cette communauté. Celui des membres qui sera jugé convenable à la majorité des voix préside le Conseil. Tous ces Conseils de communauté reconnaîtront pour lieu de recours les autorités locales et les Conseils Généraux des vilayets.

Art. 149. Le Conseil de Communauté de chaque communauté Musulmane ou non-Musulmane est constitué de la manière indiquée dans le titre relatif aux élections; de la présente loi. Il est à son tour le lieu de recours respectif des Conseils des Anciens dépendant de son caza.

Art. 150. Les attributions des Conseils de Communauté sont: la surveillance de l'emploi conforme aux conditions de Vakouf et aux anciens us et coutumes, des revenus des immeubles, de l'argent comptant et des donations ("avariz") au profit des fondations religieuses et de bienfaisance auxquelles ils sont destinés, l'emploi au profit des léga-

taires respectifs, de la manière indiquée dans les testaments y relatifs, des biens légués pour être employés aux fondations religieuses et de bienfaisance; la conservation et le mode d'administration des biens des orphelins; la conservation et l'entretien en bon état des temples, écoles, et cimetières de la communauté; la réception et l'emploi à leur destination des sommes et des donations qui leur seront confiées par des coreligionnaires habitants de ville, faubourg, et commune pour être employées à des œuvres de piété et de bienfaisance; la surveillance des Conseils des Anciens dépendant du caza et des affaires concernant la communauté; le contrôle de tous les comptes des Vakoufs respectifs; la mise en main et l'emploi exclusif à l'instruction publique des produits et revenus de ceux des Vakoufs dont les destinataires sont éteints ou ont cessé d'exister.

Art. 151. Chaque Conseil de Communauté reconnaîtra pour son lieu de recours le Conseil d'Administration de la localité et les Conseils Généraux de vilayet, dans toutes les affaires rentrant dans leurs propres attributions, et le Conseil de l'Instruction Publique du vilayet, dans celles qui s'y rapportent.

Art. 152. Le Président, les membres, et les Secrétaires des Conseils de Communauté se trouveront sous caution réciproque et solidaire pour la conservation de l'argent comptant et des objets qui leur seront confiés, ainsi que des produits et revenus des immeubles et autres objets dont l'administration leur est dévolue de quelque manière que ce soit. De même ils sont tenus de mettre en pratique la règle de transfert de comptes et inventaires entre prédécesseurs et successeurs.

Titre X.—*Des Cercles Municipaux.*

Art. 153. D'après les dispositions du Règlement Municipal de vilayet, il y aura dans chaque ville et bourg un Cercle Municipal, et conformément au règlement susindiqué, le choix et la nomination des Présidents des Cercles Municipaux parmi les membres élus de ces Cercles reviennent au Vali. Les noms des Présidents nommés ainsi seront envoyés au Ministère de l'Intérieur pour être inscrits dans le registre spécial.

Art. 154. Le Vali pourra remplacer par d'autres membres élus des Cercles Municipaux, ceux des Présidents dont l'incapacité à remplir leurs fonctions se sera manifestée.

Art. 155. Les Cercles Municipaux peuvent être dissous par le Vali. Dans ce cas, les affaires municipales sont gérées par une Commission Municipale de cinq à dix membres selon l'importance du cercle; le choix de ces membres sera fait par le Mutessarif d'après la religion et la nationalité de la population du cercle et confirmé par le Vali. L'ordre relatif à la dissolution du Conseil Municipal indiquera aussi l'époque de l'élection des nouveaux membres; et cette élection ne pourra pas être retardée de plus de trois mois.

Art. 156. Les Cercles Municipaux sont autorisés à exprimer aux autorités locales leurs avis et considérations sur toutes les questions que ces autorités soumettront à leur discussion, ainsi que leurs vœux au sujet des affaires concernant les intérêts locaux.

Art. 157. Les autorités locales pourront en tous temps contrôler la comptabilité et inspecter les affaires financières de la Municipalité.

Art. 158. Quand le Conseil Municipal aura décidé d'établir un impôt contraire aux lois, le Mutessarif annulera cette décision et défendra la perception de l'impôt. Si le Conseil Municipal ne juge pas conforme aux lois l'action du Mutessarif, il a recours au Vali qui, après avoir demandé l'avis du Conseil Administratif du vilayet et de la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général, tranche le différend.

Art. 159. Si les revenus Municipaux ne sont pas suffisant, l'octroi adopté par le Conseil Municipal pourra être créé par décision du Conseil Général. Le mode de perception de cet impôt sera décidé par le Conseil Municipal et tout le produit en reviendra à la Caisse de la Municipalité. L'octroi ne pourra être perçu que sur les objets qui seront consommés dans l'intérieur de la ville.

Art. 160. Les Présidents des Conseils Municipaux s'occuperont comme les fonctionnaires de l'Etat des affaires suivantes:

(1.) Publication des lois, règlements, et ordres du Vali, et en général de tous les documents officiels dont la publication sera nécessaire;

(2.) Exécution des dispositions des lois et règlements, des ordres du Vali, et des décisions du Mutessarif dont l'application leur serait confiée;

(3.) Prise et exécution des mesures concernant la tranquillité publique et qui leur seraient ordonnées par l'Administration Centrale du vilayet, par le Mutessarif, ou par le Caïmacam.

(4.) Publication des cahiers des impôts;

(5.) Examen de toutes les questions que les lois et les règlements leur attribuent.

Art. 161. Si le Président du Conseil Municipal montre de la négligence dans l'exécution de l'une des affaires qui lui sont confiées par la loi, ou bien s'il refuse de l'exécuter, le Mutessarif ou le Caïmacam, après un avertissement, la fait exécuter par un fonctionnaire et fait connaître le fait au Vali ou au Mutessarif.

Titre XI.—*De l'Administration des Nahiés.*

Art. 162. Il y aura dans chaque nahié un Mudir (Maire) et un Mouavain (Adjoint, qui s'occupent de la police Municipale du nahié. Si, par l'importance du lieu, il est jugé convenable par le Gouvernement d'y nommer un officier de police, le Mudir sans s'immiscer dans la police, administrera les affaires Municipales. Les Mudirs des nahiés et leurs Mouavains ont pour mission de sauvegarder les intérêts collectifs de la commune et de faire parvenir au Caïmacam et, s'il y a nécessité, au Mutessarif, les réclamations et les vœux exprimés par la population du nahié. Les Mudirs des nahiés et leurs Mouavains sont, dans l'ordre administratif, subordonnées au Caïmacam; mais ils peuvent avoir recours au Mutessarif.

Art. 163. Le Mudir et son Mouavain seront désignés chaque année par le Mutessarif parmi les membres du Conseil du Nahié, et leurs fonctions seront confirmées par le Vali. Ils devront être au moins âgés de 35 ans et devront jouir de toutes les conditions indiquées dans le Titre des élections pour les membres du Conseil des nahiés. A l'exception des cas indiqués à l'Article 166, les Mudirs et leurs Mouavains pourront toujours être choisis de nouveau après l'expiration du terme de leurs fonctions. Leur nomination se fait à l'époque accoutumée et leurs fonctions ne sont pas rétribuées.

Art. 164. Les Mudirs des nahiés ont pour mission de faire rentrer complètement les impôts; ils sont responsables de tout retard à ce sujet; ils publieront la copie officielle du cahier dressé par les fonctionnaires préposés aux impôts et indiquant l'assiette et la répartition des impôts. Dans chaque nahié, et sous la surveillance du Mudir, un membre du Conseil du Nahié exercera les fonctions de Caissier et un autre tiendra la comptabilité.

Art. 165. Ne peuvent être nommés Mudirs, Mouavains, ou membres du Conseil de Nahié, les fonctionnaires ci-après désignés:—

1. Les fonctionnaires rétribués de l'Administration Publique et de l'Administration Municipale.
2. Les fermiers des revenus.
3. Les entrepreneurs des travaux.
4. Les militaires en activité de service ou en disponibilité.

Art. 166. Le Mutessarif destitue les Mudirs et les Mouavains s'ils viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent aussi être destitués en cas de manquement grave à leurs devoirs, ou sur une plainte fondée à leur égard. Leur destitution dans ces deux cas doit être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Caïmacam. Un membre du Conseil Communal remplacera le Mudir destitué. Les Mudirs et les Mouavains destitués pour manquement grave à leurs devoirs ne peuvent être nommés de nouveau qu'au bout de deux ans.

Attributions des Mudirs des Nahiés.

Art. 167. Les attributions des Mudirs se composent: de la publication des lois, règlements, ordres et avertissements du Gouvernement; de la vérification, de l'origine, et du fondement des plaintes des habitants au sujet des fonctionnaires et de leur notification au Caïmacam; de l'exécution des enquêtes préliminaires et de la notification au caza des événements et crimes; de l'exécution des instructions écrites du Gouvernement pour les affaires de leur compétence; du recensement de la population du nahié; de la mise à exécution des décisions du Conseil du Nahié et concernant les intérêts Municipaux; et pour celles des questions susmentionnées qui sont relatives à l'assiette et à la perception des impôts et qui auront été décidées en Conseil, il en demandent l'autorisation au Caïmacam.

Art. 168. Les percepteurs dans la perception des revenus de l'Etat sont sous le

contrôle et les ordres des Mudirs ; ils sont obligés de leur montrer leurs registres afin d'accélérer l'encaissement des revenus du fisc.

Les gardes-forestiers, les gardes-champêtres et tous autres gardiens doivent recourir au Mudir pour ce qui les concerne et agir en conformité de ses ordres.

Art. 169. Si un Mudir, un Mouavain, ou un membre du Conseil de Nahié se trouve destitué avant le terme de l'expiration de son mandat, les électeurs se réunissent extraordinairement pour procéder à une nouvelle élection qui n'a d'effet que jusqu'à la fin de la période indiquée.

Des Conseils des Nahiés.

Art. 170. Chaque commune, selon son importance, aura un Conseil de Nahié composé de quatre à douze membres. Ces membres devront être âgés d'au moins 30 ans ; ils seront élus pour deux ans suivant le mode indiqué dans le Titre des élections.

Art. 171.—Les Conseils des Nahiés délibèrent :—

1. Sur les questions relatives à la voirie et à la salubrité des villages compris dans le nahié, à la construction et à la réparation des chemins particuliers reliant les villages ainsi que des ponts, à la construction et à l'entretien des édifices, fontaines, puits, citernes, conduites d'eau, égouts, fossés et autres appartenant aux villages ;

2. Sur les questions concernant la prospérité de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de l'industrie, l'accroissement dans l'arrondissement des instruments agricoles et des bestiaux de labour, ainsi que l'amélioration des semences dégénérées ;

3. Sur l'amélioration des lits des fleuves, rivières, et torrents qui dévastent les champs, et la construction de digues pour la préservation des récoltes ;

4. Sur la bonne administration et l'entretien des pares, bois, prairies, pâturages d'hiver et d'été appartenant à la commune, et sur la nomination des gardes-champêtres et forestiers avec définition de leurs devoirs ;

5. Sur le dénombrement de la population suivant le mode indiqué par l'autorité ;

6. Sur la surveillance des affaires relatives aux écoles et aux temples.

Art. 172. Ces Conseils ont encore pour attributions de répartir selon la condition des villages que contient l'arrondissement et la proportion du nombre des habitants, l'impôt que le Gouvernement établira par une loi spéciale, ou la partie des impôts légalement établis que le Conseil d'Administration du caza a attribués aux localités dans lesquelles l'inscription des propriétés n'a pas encore été appliquée, ainsi que les ouvriers que les habitants sont chargés de fournir pour la construction des routes ; d'examiner les réclamations qui pourraient survenir entre les villages par suite de ces répartitions et de les modifier et arranger en conséquence ; de délibérer sur les moyens de percevoir les redevances fiscales, les dîmes et contributions de manière à ce qu'il n'en reste pas d'arriérés ; de constater avec toute la promptitude possible et de porter immédiatement à la connaissance de l'autorité et du plus proche Directeur de Police les noms et prénoms des brigands et des voleurs de grand chemin qui apparaîtraient dans le nahié, ainsi que des fauteurs de troubles qui y surviendraient, au préjudice de la tranquillité et de la sécurité de la localité ; de faire connaître au Président, afin qu'il en informe immédiatement l'autorité, les percepteurs, agents de police, huissiers, employés des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes qui oseraient agir, en quoi que ce soit, contrairement à la loi et aux règlements, et qui commettraient des exactions ou vexations, ainsi que de faire connaître les maladies contagieuses et les épizooties qui apparaîtraient dans le nahié.

Dans le cas où un Conseil de Nahié dépasserait les limites de ses attributions et que sa dissolution serait jugée nécessaire par l'autorité, le Caïmacam du caza en demande l'autorisation au Vali par l'entremise du Mutessarif ; et sur les ordres qu'il en reçoit, il dissout le Conseil et en fait élire un autre conformément à la loi.

Art. 173. Toute décision qui sera donnée pour mettre à la charge des habitants un impôt, au point de rendre impossible le réglement de celui qui est payé à un nahié, ou vilayet ou sandjak, avec l'addition de 2 paras par piastre (5 pour cent) devra être confirmée par le Caïmacam.

Les contestations survenues entre les Conseils des Anciens des villages d'un nahié seront résolues à l'amiable par un Conseil mixte composé de six à douze Anciens choisis *ad hoc* par les villages contestants. Les membres de ce Conseil de Paix seront pris en nombre égal dans chaque village, et le plus ancien des Mudirs aura la présidence.

Dans le cas où cet essai de résolution à l'amiable n'aboutirait pas, le Jugement de la constatation sera référé au Tribunal Civil.

Cette règle sera mise aussi en pratique dans les contestations survenues entre deux ou plusieurs nahiés, avec la différence que le Conseil de Paix sera en pareil cas présidé par le Caïmacam en personne ou par un délégué de sa part.

Art. 174. Le Conseil de Nahié encaissera les impôts et droits Municipaux dans le Cercle désigné par les lois et les règlements ; il arrêtera le budget du nahié et y indiquera le montant des dépenses fixé par ces lois et règlements comme obligatoire.

Il arrêtera après contrôle les comptes de l'Administration du nahié ; il décidera la création ou l'agrandissement de tous les établissements se rapportant aux intérêts généraux de nahié, tels que les écoles et les maisons de gymnastique, soit au moyen de l'argent en caisse soit avec les sommes provenant de l'augmentation des impôts Municipaux.

Il arrêtera les projets et plans des grandes réparations des propriétés appartenant au nahié, afin d'en demander l'autorisation aux fonctionnaires supérieurs. Il examinera et discutera toutes les questions relatives au nivellement et à la construction des rues et des places ainsi qu'à leur pavage et éclairage ; à la construction des jardins publics, conduites d'eau, égouts, fossés, digues, ponts, appartenant au pays ; et en général toutes les affaires concernant les rues municipales ; les procès qui intéressent le nahié, ainsi que les modes d'arrangement et les conventions qu'il serait nécessaire de conclure pour son compte.

Art. 175. Le budget du nahié est dressé par le Mudir et remis au Conseil du Nahié ; après examen et confirmation, il est envoyé au chef-lieu du caza. Si quelques dépenses relatives au nahié sont omises dans son budget, elles y seront introduites après discussion au Conseil d'Administration du caza. Dans le cas où les revenus ordinaires du nahié seraient insuffisants pour couvrir ces dépenses, le Mutessarif proposera au Vali la charge d'un impôt extraordinaire au nahié pour compléter le déficit. Le Vali se concerte avec le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet et avec la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général, et détermine par un Arrêté ou Décret le montant de l'impôt, sa répartition, et le mode de perception.

Art. 176. Les dépenses obligatoires d'un nahié sont :

1. Les frais de l'administration du local destiné au Mudirat ;
2. Les frais de bureau et d'impression pour le service du nahié ;
3. L'abonnement au journal et le coût des feuilles d'annonces dans lesquels sont publiés les actes administratifs ;
4. Les frais du recensement de la population ;
5. Les traitements des Receveurs Municipaux et des préposés de l'octroi, s'il y en a ; ainsi que les frais de perception de tous les revenus du nahié ;
6. Les traitements des gardes-ruraux ;
7. Les dépenses de police mises à la charge du nahié en vertu des lois et règlements ;
8. Les appointements des employés chargés des affaires Municipales du nahié ;
9. Les frais d'entretien d'un service de pompiers nécessaire au nahié ;
10. Le contingent assigné au nahié dans la dépense des enfants trouvés et abandonnés ;
11. Les frais d'entretien de l'hôpital du nahié ;
12. Les frais de réparation des édifices appartenant au Nahié ;
13. Les frais de clôture des cimetières par des murs, leur entretien et leur translation dans les cas déterminés par les lois et règlements ;
14. Les contributions et prélèvements établis par la loi sur les biens meubles et immeubles et sur les revenus du nahié ;
15. Les dettes du nahié ;
16. Et généralement toutes les charges ordinaires et extraordinaires imposées au nahié par un Article de loi.

Titre XII.—*Des Quartiers et des Villages.*

Art. 177. Il y a pour chaque communauté un Moukhtar dans chaque quartier et village. Il peut y en avoir deux dans un village, si une communauté se compose de cinquante maisons.

Art. 178. Chaque Moukhtar est considéré comme l'homme de confiance de la communauté qui l'a élu ; par conséquent les habitants électeurs d'une même communauté sont garants et responsables des actes des Moukhtars respectifs dans les affaires de finance.

Art. 179. Les Moukhtars sont les intermédiaires exécutifs de l'autorité dans la perception des revenus et dans les autres matières.

Art. 180. Il y a dans chaque quartier et village un Conseil des Anciens pour délibérer sur les affaires particulières de chaque communauté respective, Musulmane et non-Musulmane.

Les Moukhtars sont les membres de droit des Conseils des Anciens, et même que les Imams et les prêtres le sont aux Conseils des Anciens des communautés auxquelles ils appartiennent. Ils nomment à la présidence un des membres à la majorité des voix.

Art. 181. Les Conseils des Anciens, selon la localité, sont composés de trois à six membres au moins. Leur mission est d'examiner les intérêts spéciaux de leurs communautés respectives, de conserver et d'entretenir en bon état les temples et cimetières de la communauté, d'avoir soin de ses pauvres, de régler et arranger à l'amiable les différends ou querelles survenus entre des individus de la communauté, de créer des écoles de garçons et de filles.

Art. 182. Chaque communauté a une Caisse sous la surveillance de son Conseil des Anciens. Les revenus de cette Caisse sont constitués des secours privés donnés par la communauté, des produits des immeubles attachés aux temples et aux écoles, ainsi que des secours et dons provenant de testaments ou autrement; ses dépenses consistent en frais d'entretien des temples et écoles, et en secours aux pauvres.

Art. 183. Chaque Conseil des Anciens doit remettre une liste contenant le nombre de la population de la communauté, au Conseil Communal dans les nahiés, au Conseil Municipal dans les villes et faubourgs. De même il présentera à ces Conseils tous les trois mois la liste particulière des décès et naissances.

Art. 184. Les Conseils des Anciens sont soumis au Conseil de Communauté du caza ou du sandjak dont ils relèvent par rapport à ce qui concerne les écoles, les Vakoufs, les testaments, les biens des orphelins, et les autres institutions de piété et bienfaisance.

Art. 185. Les Conseils des Anciens ont pour mission de faciliter les moyens agricoles des villages auxquels ils appartiennent, d'entretenir en bon état et d'administrer les temples, écoles, fontaines, conduites d'eau, forêts qui se trouvent dans les villages, de nommer les gardes-champêtres, de conserver les biens des orphelins et, par ordre de l'autorité, les biens et immeubles des défunts dont les héritiers sont absents; de faire connaître au plus proche préposé de police et au Président du Conseil du Nahié, avec l'enquête préliminaire, les crimes et délits qui auraient lieu dans les villages; de répartir entre les habitants les charges et redevances des villages dans les localités où l'inscription des immeubles n'a pas encore été appliquée, et de résoudre les difficultés qui naîtraient de ce chef parmi les habitants, de mettre à exécution, en ce qui concerne leurs villages respectifs, les décisions rendues par le Conseil du Nahié dont ils relèvent.

Des Attributions des Moukhtars.

Art. 186. Les attributions des Moukhtars sont:

Faire connaître aux habitants du village auquel ils appartiennent les ordres de l'autorité, les décisions rendues par le Conseil du Nahié, et les recommendations du Mudir; mettre à exécution les décisions du Conseil des Anciens du village pour ce qui les concerne; encaisser les redevances fiscales et en remettre le produit à la Caisse des finances; communiquer à ceux qu'ils concernent parmi les habitants du village, les mandats de comparution, les actes relatifs aux séquestres, les protêts, et les Jugements émanés de l'autorité, des Tribunaux, et des Conseils; donner des "ilmoukhabers" à ceux qui ont à prendre des teskérés de voyage ou de chasse; faire connaître à l'autorité les décès et les naissances qui ont lieu dans le village, les défunts ayant des héritiers mineurs et absents, les terres mahlul ("en déshérence") soustraites à l'action fiscale; faire connaître immédiatement au plus proche préposé de police et Mudir du nahié les crimes et délits, tels que blessures et assassinats, et prêter assistance, dans la mesure du possible, à l'arrestation de leurs auteurs; assister au tirage au sort pour la conscription et à l'examen des rédifs, et donner aux préposés officiels les renseignements nécessaires.

Dans le cas où le Moukhtar serait malade, un des membres du Conseil des Anciens le remplace provisoirement par une décision de ce Conseil.

Titre XIII.—*Des Elections.*

Elections dans les Villages.

Art. 187. Dans tout village et ferme, tout sujet Ottoman habitant le village, âgé de plus de 21 ans, jouissant de ses droits civils et politiques, n'ayant été condamné pour aucun crime, payant annuellement au Gouvernement la dîme ou tout autre impôt direct, possédant un immeuble ou fils de père ou mère en possédant un, ou bien chef d'un établissement de commerce ou d'industrie, est électeur, c'est-à-dire qu'il a le droit d'élire. L'Uléma Musulman, les prêtres et ministres des cultes des diverses communautés, les professeurs, les médecins, les magistrats et les fonctionnaires administratifs du vilayet, et enfin les personnes qui dans l'Empire Ottoman ou à l'étranger, ont obtenu soit un diplôme de docteur ou de licencié, soit un titre équivalent dans une Université ou dans tout autre établissement supérieur d'instruction, sont dispensés de remplir les conditions énumérées dans la dernière rubrique susmentionnée.

Sont privés de l'exercice de leurs droits électoraux les membres du corps de la gendarmerie et de la police; ceux qui dans les cadres permanents des officiers et des troupes nationales ont le grade de sergent ou de caporal; et cela pendant la durée de leur service dans la gendarmerie et l'armée régulière. Quinze ans après la promulgation du présent Règlement, toute personne qui atteindra sa majorité et réclamera l'exercice de ses droits électoraux, devra, en outre des conditions ci-dessus, savoir lire et écrire.

Art. 188. Tout d'abord, il sera dressé dans chaque village une liste de tous les électeurs remplissant les conditions indiquées dans l'Article 187. Ces listes seront annuellement révisées. Toute personne non inscrite dans la liste des électeurs du caza où elle tient domicile, ne pourra prendre part à l'élection tant qu'elle ne possède pas un Jugement ordonnant son inscription dans les listes, en résiliant la décision qui la privait de ses droits électoraux. Les listes électorales sont publiques. Celles des villes sont conservées dans le bureau Municipal, celles des nahiés sont déposés chez les Mudirs ou au bureau du Caïmacam. Une copie de ces listes sera affichée dans chaque nahié, ainsi que cela se fait pour les publications officielles.

Toute personne qui se prétend indûment omise de la liste électorale peut réclamer son inscription. La liste de chaque nahié est affichée pendant quinze jours dans le lieu le plus fréquenté du public et de manière à être fortement remarqué. Pendant ces quinze jours, chacun est autorisé à présenter ses observations soit sur l'omission de son nom, soit sur celle de toute autre personne. Passé ce délai, les listes sont envoyées au chef-lieu du caza, avec les observations qu'elles ont soulevées, ainsi que l'opinion des fonctionnaires chargés des affaires d'élections.

Art. 189. Les électeurs se réunissent une fois par an; chaque communauté élit à la majorité des voix ses Moukhtars et les membres du Conseil des Anciens, pour la période d'un an. Au terme de cette période ceux-ci peuvent être réélus.

Art. 190. Les noms des Moukhtars élus sont envoyés au Caïmacam par le Conseil des Anciens, afin d'être enregistrés au Conseil du Nahié et au Conseil administratif du caza.

Art. 191. Si par suite de démission, de décès, ou de tout autre motif, il y a vacance dans les fonctions de Moukhtar ou de membre du Conseil des Anciens, les électeurs se réunissent aussitôt pour pourvoir à cette vacance.

Elections des Conseils de Nahié.

Art. 192. Tout sujet Ottoman ayant dépassé sa trentième année, payant annuellement au Gouvernement Impérial, au moins 50 piastres en impôts directs, habitant un des villages du nahié et possédant des immeubles, pourra être élu pour deux ans membre du Conseil du Nahié. Ne peuvent être élus: les domestiques, les personnes ayant perdu tout ou partie de leurs droits politiques, conformément aux dispositions du Code Pénal, les faillis non réhabilités, les personnes ne jouissant pas de leurs facultés mentales, les personnes qui ont été condamnées pour délits, à un an de prison ou à une peine équivalente, celles condamnées pour vagabondage, celles qui, conformément au règlement spécial, ont obtenu l'autorisation de servir un Gouvernement étranger, et celle qui prétendent appartenir à une juridiction étrangère.

Les condamnés à un an de prison ou à une peine équivalente recouvrent le droit d'éligibilité cinq années après la condamnation, à la condition cependant qu'ils ne soient pas, dans cette période, condamnés pour un nouveau crime ou un délit.

Art. 193. Au commencement de Décembre de l'année de l'élection, après que le Conseil d'Administration du caza aura déterminé le nombre des membres du Conseil du nahié en considérant l'étendue et la population de ce nahié, le Caïmacam du caza enverra à la ville ou au village, chef-lieu du nahié, afin d'y organiser les élections, un membre du Conseil d'Administration et un Conseiller Municipal munis des articles de bureau nécessaires et d'une escorte suffisante de gendarmes.

Art. 194. Les deux fonctionnaires envoyés du chef-lieu du caza, arrivés au centre du nahié, constituent une Commission pour les aider pendant les élections. A cet effet, ils font comparaître les Moukhtars des villages des nahiés et leur font élire à la majorité des voix six membres qui seront choisis parmi les personnes inscrites sur les listes d'élection.

Art. 195. Quand la Commission Electorale aura été formée, elle élira son Président parmi ses membres; elle déterminera le jour où les élections devront commencer. Des criers publics et des affiches indiqueront à la population qu'elle aura à s'occuper tel jour des élections.

Art. 196. L'arrivée des électeurs pour faire l'élection, au centre du nahié, devra être organisée de façon qu'il n'arrive pas plus de 300 électeurs par jour; on fera connaître à chaque village le jour qui a été fixé pour l'arrivée de ces électeurs.

Art. 197. A l'arrivée des électeurs au centre du nahié, il sera donné à chaque électeur, par la Commission Electorale, un bulletin de vote muni au dos du cachet du nahié.

Art. 198. Le bulletin de vote est une feuille blanche. Chaque électeur y inscrit, ou, s'il ne le peut pas lui-même, y fait inscrire par un homme de confiance les noms des personnes jouissant des conditions indiquées dans l'Article 197, jusqu'à concurrence du nombre des membres dont le Conseil de Nahié devra se composer.

Art. 199. Les élections se feront dans la salle du Conseil de Nahié, s'il y en a une, ou dans tout autre lieu convenable, tel qu'une école. Les deux fonctionnaires venus du chef-lieu du caza et les membres de la Commission Electorale se placeront derrière les urnes d'élection, et les électeurs seront introduits par groupes de cinq; leurs noms seront rayés sur les listes électorales au fur et à mesure de leur entrée; puis les électeurs jettent dans les urnes leurs bulletins préalablement préparés et pliés en quatre et se retirent.

Les électeurs seront admis dans la salle de vote par groupes de cinq électeurs jusqu'au soir, et 300 invités ce jour jetteront leurs bulletins dans les urnes. Vers le soir l'ouverture des urnes ainsi que les trous des serrures seront scellés au moyen des sceaux des six membres de la Commission et des deux fonctionnaires venus du caza. On continuera chaque jour de la même manière jusqu'à ce que les votes des électeurs des différents villages soient rassemblés aux jours respectivement fixés.

Art. 200. Après la période indiquée pour les élections, aucun électeur ne pourra plus voter. L'ouverture de l'urne sera fermée et scellée et l'urne liée avec des cordons dont les extrémités recevront les cachets des huit personnes sus-indiquées. L'urne sera portée sous bonne garde au chef-lieu du caza et remise au Conseil Municipal par les deux fonctionnaires partis du caza et deux des membres de la Commission Electorale.

Art. 201. Les cachets sur l'ouverture de l'urne et sur les trous des serrures seront examinés en présence du Corps Municipal et du Tribunal de Première Instance du chef-lieu de caza, des deux fonctionnaires de retour du nahié et des deux membres envoyés par la Commission Electorale. Dans le cas où il n'y aurait aucun doute sur la non violation de ces sceaux, l'urne sera ouverte, les bulletins d'élection qu'elle contient, comptés et notés sur une liste, en colonnes, et les personnes ayant obtenu le plus grand nombre de voix seront proclamées élues. En cas d'égalité des votes, le sort décidera. Les membres seront élus à la majorité relative, quel que soit le nombre des votants. Si deux candidats ont obtenu le même nombre de voix, leurs noms seront soumis au tirage au sort huit jours après. Les noms des membres ainsi élus sont adressés au Caïmacam dans un procès-verbal dressé par le corps présent. Le Mudir du nahié et ses adjoints seront pris parmi les membres ainsi élus et nommés de la manière indiquée dans le Titre à ce relatif.

Il appartient aux Tribunaux de Première Instance d'examiner la validité des élections, de les annuler, ou de les confirmer. Le rejet en appel est porté aux Tribunaux d'Appel. Les opérations qui ont cours par devant les Tribunaux au sujet des élections, seront exemptes de tous droits et frais.

Art. 202. Lors de la nomination des membres à la majorité des voix, il sera dressé une liste des noms, jusqu'à concurrence du double des premiers, des personnes ayant obtenu le plus de voix après eux et cette liste se trouvera dans le procès-verbal précédemment indiqué. Les noms de ces personnes seront inscrits dans le registre du Conseil de Caza; et dans le cas de démission, de décès, ou de translation de domicile volontaire ou effectuée légalement, de l'un des membres, et cela avant l'expiration du terme de son mandat, il sera remplacé par la personne qui a obtenu le plus de votes parmi celles inscrits dans le registre du Conseil de Caza.

Art. 203. Dans le cas où les membres de la Commission Electorale et les Secrétaires du Corps Municipal de Caza seraient insuffisants pour accomplir les opérations de bureaux qui doivent être exécutées au chef-lieu du nahié pendant l'élection ou celles qui auront lieu au chef-lieu du caza lors du dépouillement des scrutins, on emploiera à ce service des personnes de confiance et aptes à s'en acquitter à titre gratuit et que l'on choisira parmi les habitants zélés de la localité s'il s'en trouve.

Art. 204. Dans le cas où les Commissions Electorales des nahiés le demanderaient, un nombre suffisant d'agents de police serait chargé de maintenir le bon ordre et la tranquillité pendant les élections.

Art. 205. Dans le cas où certaines personnes chercheraient à troubler les principes et les opérations électorales par des intrigues ou des fraudes, il sera procédé à leur égard suivant les dispositions du Titre spécial de la loi sur l'élection des Députés.

Art. 206. Toute personne qui se prétendrait omise, contrairement au règlement, sur la liste électorale, peut s'adresser au Mudir et réclamer son inscription dans le délai de quinze jours, à partir de la date des annonces qui seront publiées portant que la liste est dressée ou qu'elle est révisée. Le Mudir est tenu de référer cette réclamation, dans les vingt-quatre heures, à la Commission chargée de la matière. Dans le cas où la Commission n'admettrait pas la réclamation, elle est tenue de faire connaître cette décision au réclamant, dans un autre délai de vingt-quatre heures. De même que tout électeur dont le nom est inscrit sur la liste électorale, peut demander, sous la même forme et dans le même espace de temps, l'inscription sur cette liste d'une ou plusieurs personnes qu'il prétendrait avoir été omises contraire au règlement, il peut aussi demander la suppression de cette liste d'une ou de plusieurs personnes qu'il prétendrait y avoir été inscrites irrégulièrement. Dans ce cas aussi, la Commission devra émettre son avis dans les trois jours, à partir de celui de la réclamation.

Toute personne dont la demande aurait été repoussée par la Commission chargée de dresser et de réviser la liste, pourra recourir au Tribunal de Première Instance du caza, dans l'espace de quinze autre jours, et le Tribunal décidera après s'être enquis sur la matière chez les Mudirs.

Des Elections de Caza.

Art. 207. L'élection aux fonctions de membre du Conseil d'Administration de Caza est subordonnée à la condition de réunir les qualités requises pour les fonctions de membre du Conseil de Nahié, de payer au Gouvernement un impôt direct de 100 piastres par an, et de n'être pas débiteur du fisc.

Art. 208. La durée des fonctions de membre du Conseil d'Administration de Caza est de deux ans; la moitié des membres est renouvelée chaque année; les membres sortant la première fois sont désignés par le sort.

Art. 209. Les membres du Conseil d'Administration de Caza sont élus par les Conseils de Nahié.

Le Caïmacam écrit d'avance aux Mudirs des nahiés de réunir le Conseil de Nahié chaque an à un jour fixe. Ce jour-là un fonctionnaire muni de la quantité nécessaire d'articles de bureau, est envoyé du chef-lieu du caza à celui du nahié. Le fonctionnaire arrivé au chef-lieu du nahié, donne un bulletin de vote à chacun des membres du Conseil de Nahié, leur recommandant d'élire quatre personnes pour les fonctions de membres du Conseil d'Administration du Caza. Chaque membre du Conseil de Nahié écrit secrètement ou fait écrire par une personne de confiance sur le bulletin les noms de ceux qu'il a élus pour les fonctions de membres du Conseil de Caza; il porte ce bulletin au Conseil et le place secrètement dans une enveloppe; après que tous les bulletins auront été ainsi réunis, l'enveloppe est cachetée avec le sceau du Conseil du nahié et remise au fonctionnaire.

Art. 210. Les fonctionnaires qui sont allés aux Conseils de Nahié portent les bulletins des votes au chef-lieu du caza et les remettent au Conseil Municipal.

Art. 211. Les Corps des Cercles Municipaux qui se trouvent dans les faubourgs du chef-lieu du caza, mettent aussi dans une enveloppe un bulletin d'élection, chacun à l'instar des membres du Conseil de Nahié, et font apposer sur l'enveloppe le sceau du Conseil Municipal. Chaque Cercle Municipal dans les autres faubourgs est considéré comme un nahié.

Art. 212. A l'arrivée des bulletins des élections de tous les nahiés, le Cercle Municipal du chef-lieu du caza et les corps des Tribunaux Judiciaires se réunissent, et en présence du Caïmacam du caza, les enveloppes venues des nahiés sont décachetées; les bulletins y contenues comptés et notés sur une liste en colonnes; le Caïmacam annonce aux habitants la nomination aux fonctions de membres des personnes qui ont obtenu la majorité des votes, ainsi que celles désignées par le sort, dans les cas d'égalité des voix. Les noms de ces membres, ainsi que leurs cachets reproduits en copie, sont envoyés au chef-lieu du liva, avec un procès-verbal dressé par les corps présents.

Art. 213. Après la nomination des personnes qui ont obtenu la majorité des votes aux fonctions de membres, on inscrit aussi séparément, dans le procès-verbal, un nombre de noms double du leur, pris parmi ceux qui ont obtenu le plus de votes après les premiers, pour pourvoir aux vacances dans les éventualitiés prévues à l'Article 196; ces noms seront inscrits dans les registres du Conseil du liva.

Election des Membres des Conseils de Communauté.

Art. 214. Les Conseils des Anciens de chaque communauté éliront les membres des Conseils des communautés de leurs cazas respectifs, conformément aux règles d'élection des membres du Conseil d'Administration de Caza, et l'un des membres ainsi élus est nommé Président, à la majorité des voix.

Art. 215. Les membres des Conseils de Communauté doivent être au nombre de quatre à huit, et ils sont élus pour deux ans.

Des Elections du Liva.

Art. 216. Les membres du Conseil d'Administration du liva seront choisis parmi ceux qui, jouissant des conditions requises pour les membres des Conseils de Nahié, sont capables et ne sont pas débiteurs du fisc; il faut aussi qu'ils paient annuellement un impôt direct de 150 piastres. Comme pour les membres des Conseils de Nahié, leurs fonctions durent deux ans; la moitié est renouvelable chaque année; les membres du premier renouvellement seront désignés par le sort.

Art. 217. Les membres du Conseil d'Administration de Liva sont élus par les Conseils d'Administration des Cazas. L'époque des élections arrivée, le Mutessarif écrit au Caïmacam de faire faire les élections; celui-ci en charge le Conseil d'Administration du caza, dont chaque membre écrit secrètement sur un bulletin les noms des habitants du sandjak qu'il juge dignes d'être membres du Conseil d'Administration du liva, et place le bulletin dans une enveloppe préparée préalablement dans le Conseil. L'enveloppe est scellée du sceau du Conseil d'Administration du caza, en présence des membres de ce Conseil, et envoyée au Conseil Municipal du chef-lieu du sandjak.

Art. 218. Le Conseil Municipal de chef-lieu du sandjak, et les Conseils des nahiés qui en dépendent, désignent quatre de leurs membres, qui, comme les membres des Conseils de Cazas, placent dans une enveloppe leurs bulletins de vote, et cachètent l'enveloppe au sceau du Conseil Municipal. Ceci sera considéré comme le Conseil d'Administration du caza.

Art. 219. Quand les bulletins des votes des cazas sont réunis, le Corps Municipal du chef-lieu du liva et les membres des Tribunaux de Cassation se rassembleront et, en présence du Mutessarif, les enveloppes seront ouvertes et les bulletins y contenus comptés et notés sur une liste en colonnes; les personnes ayant obtenu la majorité des votes et celles désignées par le sort, en cas de partage égal des voix, seront membres et leur élection sera publiée par le Mutessarif. Le procès-verbal dressé par les assistants ainsi que les noms et l'empreinte des sceaux des élus seront envoyés au siège du liva.

Art. 220. Après l'élection des membres à la majorité des voix, seront inscrits au procès-verbal et enregistrés par le Conseil du vilayet, les noms des personnes, en nombre double de celui des élus, qui ont obtenu, après ceux-ci, le plus de voix, afin qu'elles puissent remplir les vacances dans les éventualités prévues à l'Article 191.

Conseil Général de Vilayet.

Art. 221. Les membres élus du Conseil Général du vilayet exercent leurs fonctions pendant quatre ans.

Art. 222. Le Conseil Général du vilayet sera composé de membres envoyés au nombre de deux par chaque caza et élus par les membres des Conseils des Nahiés, d'après le mode indiqué pour l'élection des membres du Conseil d'Administration du caza. Les membres du Conseil Général du vilayet doivent jouir des qualités et conditions requises par les membres des Conseils d'Administration de Liva.

Questions diverses.

Art. 223. Le prix de location des animaux et les autres frais de voyages des fonctionnaires envoyés des cazas aux nahiés, seront réglés par les revenus Municipaux, sur un Rapport délivré par la Commission d'Election; et si ces revenus ne suffisent pas au réglement des dépenses, les nahiés auront recours aux cazas; ceux-ci aux livas, et les livas au vilayet.

Art. 224. Les membres des Conseils d'Administration des cazas et des livas n'étant pas choisis exclusivement parmi les Notables et la population des centres, les cazas pourront envoyer aux livas, les livas au vilayet et même directement les cazas et les nahiés au centre du vilayet; ceux de leurs habitants qui sont capables, qui jouissent des conditions requises par les Articles spéciaux et qui ne doivent rien au Trésor.

Art. 225. Les membres des Conseils d'Administration, des Conseils des Communautés, et des Nahiés sont rééligibles après l'expiration de leur mandat.

Art. 226. Les membres qui seront élus, lors de la dissolution des Conseils d'Administration des cazas, des livas, et du vilayet, pour les motifs énumérés dans l'Article 192, exerceront leurs fonctions ce qui restait de temps à leurs prédécesseurs, et se retireront à la fin de cette période.

Art. 227. Ne peuvent pas être membres des Conseils Administratifs ou autres, en même temps le père et le fils, le beau-père et le gendre, ou deux frères.

Art. 228. Aux années d'élection, on débutera, dans les premiers jours de Décembre, par l'élection des membres des Conseils des Nahiés; immédiatement après, on procédera à l'élection des Conseils d'Administration des Cazas; puis à celle des Conseils d'Administration des Livas; et enfin à l'élection des Conseils Généraux des vilayets. Tous les Conseils de Nahié et les Conseils d'Administration doivent se trouver réunis à la fin de Février.

Titre XIV.—*Traité des Affaires Judiciaires.*

Art. 229. Les Tribunaux Nizamiés du vilayet seront constitués conformément à la loi nouvellement promulguée, et divisés en Tribunaux Civils et Tribunaux Correctionnels qui seront en principe à deux degrés, à savoir: Tribunaux de Première Instance et Tribunaux d'Appel. Les Conseils des Nahiés s'occuperont des contestations qui peuvent être aplanies par un accord ou à l'amiable, ainsi que des procès jusqu'à concurrence d'une certaine limite. Il y aura dans chaque caza et aux chefs-lieux des livas un Tribunal de Première Instance, et au chef-lieu du vilayet un Tribunal d'Appel; et là où cela serait nécessaire, un Tribunal de Commerce. Leurs attributions et leur compétence dans les affaires civiles ordinaires et dans les affaires commerciales, ainsi que dans les Jugements correctionnels sont établies dans la loi spéciale. Tous ces Tribunaux seront indépendants et les Jugements libres et publics. Le témoignage sous serment de toute personne, quels que soient son culte et sa religion, sera admis et respecté. L'exécution des Jugements sera confiée aux Présidents des Tribunaux, conformément à une autre loi nouvelle. Il n'y aura aucune ingérence dans les affaires judiciaires de la part de l'autorité civile.

Art. 230. En général les Juges, à la condition de connaître la loi, seront nommés et rétribués par le Gouvernement. Ils sont inamovibles, sauf dans les cas indiqués par la loi. Leur droit à une pension de retraite et à l'avancement est assuré par une loi spéciale.

Art. 231. Pour surveiller le bon ordre des Tribunaux et le cours régulier de la procédure, il y aura dans chaque vilayet un Inspecteur Judiciaire voyageur, un Procureur Général auprès du Tribunal d'Appel, et un substitut du Procureur auprès de chaque Tribunal de Première Instance. Les procès entre le Gouvernement et les particuliers seront jugés par les Tribunaux ordinaires.

Art. 232. Les séances des Tribunaux sont publiques, à moins que, par égard pour les bonnes mœurs, le huis-clos ne soit jugé nécessaire. Les Jugements sont prononcés et les sentences rendues en séance publique. Dans tous les cas où l'honneur et le crédit du plaignant l'exigent absolument, les Tribunaux peuvent ordonner la publica-

tion d'un extrait du Jugement dans la principale feuille du vilayet, aux frais de la partie condamnée.

Art. 233. L'exécution des sentences civiles est subordonnée aux dispositions de la loi spéciale relative à la mise à exécution des Jugements.

Art. 234. Le pouvoir judiciaire a été séparé du pouvoir exécutif; par conséquent, les Tribunaux Nizamiés recevront directement les requêtes; l'exécution des sentences civiles leur appartient, et celle des sentences correctionnelles est dévolue aux Procureurs Généraux. Les fonctionnaires civiles et la gendarmerie, quand les Procureurs Généraux auront recours à eux, sont dans l'obligation de leur prêter l'assistance nécessaire pour la mise à exécution des Jugements. Sous aucun motif, il ne pourra y avoir ingérence des fonctionnaires civils dans les affaires judiciaires. Cependant s'il est vu quelque faute ou négligence soit dans la composition des Tribunaux soit dans l'accomplissement de leurs devoirs de la part des Magistrats, les Caïmacams et Mutessarifs peuvent et doivent signaler le fait au Vali, et celui-ci au Ministère de la Justice.

Titre XV.—*Traité de l'Instruction Publique.*

Art. 235. Les écoles du vilayet sont, conformément au Règlement de l'Instruction Publique, placées sous la haute surveillance du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique du Vilayet.

Art. 236. L'allocation aux écoles, dans le budget annuel du vilayet, d'une subvention, ainsi que la distribution de la somme allouée, se fera par l'intermédiaire du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, sur la décision de la Commission Permanente. La subvention accordée aux écoles sera répartie entre elles approximativement en proportion de la participation des différentes communautés aux dépenses de la province.

Art. 237. Les écoles primaires, secondaires, des Arts et Métiers, Normales et autres à créer sont établies conformément au Règlement de l'Instruction Publique. La nomination des professeurs et le programme des cours sont subordonnés à la règle spéciale qui s'y rapporte. Les professeurs des écoles de vilayet sont soumis aux lois qui règlent les droits et les devoirs des autres fonctionnaires publics.

L'administration des écoles primaires et secondaires reviendra aux communautés respectives. Tous les revenus des Vakoufs appartenant à ces écoles leur seront abandonnés.

Art. 238. Si la création d'une Université au chef-lieu du vilayet est décidée, elle sera établie comme il suit:

(*a.*) Le corps enseignant sera divisé en professeurs titulaires recevant un traitement fixe du Gouvernement, et en professeurs adjoints à traitement non-fixé.

(*b.*) Les professeurs titulaires seront nommés par le Vali, sur la proposition du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique. Après la formation du corps enseignant, les nominations pour les postes vacants seront faites par le Vali, sur la présentation des professeurs titulaires.

(*c.*) Pour la nomination des professeurs titulaires, le Vali tiendra compte, autant que possible, des chiffres proportionnels des habitants des différentes nationalités.

(*d.*) Les aspirants aux postes de professeurs-adjoints doivent justifier des conditions de capacité et de moralité prescrites par la loi.

(*e.*) La langue officielle de l'Université sera la langue Ottomane: mais l'enseignement dans une autre langue sera toléré.

Art. 239. Tout particulier, à quelque nationalité ou culte qu'il appartienne, a le droit d'établir une école, conformément au Règlement de l'Instruction Publique, pourvu qu'il remplisse les conditions de moralité, conduite, et capacité, prescrites par la loi.

Art. 240. L'instruction primaire est obligatoire. Par conséquent, les enfants de 7 à 13 ans, sont tenus de fréquenter les écoles primaires.

Art. 241. L'instruction dans les écoles publiques d'un infant peut être remplacée par l'enseignement privé, si le père de l'infant ou son tuteur prouve que l'instituteur ou l'institutrice choisie par lui remplit les conditions de capacité et de moralité exigées par la loi.

Art. 242. Aucun enfant ne recevra dans les écoles l'enseignement d'une religion autre que la sienne.

Art. 243. La haute surveillance des écoles publiques et privées appartient au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, lequel l'exerce conformément aux lois et règlements au moyen d'Inspecteurs. Les Inspecteurs ne sont pas rétribués. Il peut, cependant, leur être alloué une indemnité, à titre de frais de tournée.

Ils veillent à ce que les élèves fréquentent assidûment les écoles primaires. Ils surveillent le corps enseignant, envoient de temps en temps, au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, des Rapports sur la bonne conduite, le zèle et la persévérance des instituteurs, ainsi que sur l'observation par ces derniers des dispositions des lois et règlements concernant le programme des études et autres.

Le nombre des Instituteurs et les devoirs de leurs fonctions seront déterminés suivant les besoins du vilayet.

Art. 244. Si un professeur d'une école appartenant à l'une des différentes communautés religieuses, néglige ouvertement ses devoirs professionnels, ou bien enseigne des choses qui offensent les mœurs et troublent la tranquillité publique; ou s'il est constaté que, par suite de sa conduite non satisfaisante, il n'est plus digne d'exercer la profession d'instructeur, l'Inspecteur doit le dénoncer par écrit au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, qui fait traduire l'accusé devant le Tribunal Correctionnel du sandjak.

Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique pourra destituer le professeur dont la culpabilité aura été établie.

Art. 245. Les programmes d'instruction primaire et secondaire seront rédigés conformément au Règlement de l'Instruction Publique; et il sera établi des règles dont l'expérience aura prouvé la nécessité pour en rendre l'application facile.

Art. 246. L'enseignement aux enfants de chaque communauté dans les écoles primaires ne peut être obligatoire pour une langue autre que la leur propre.

Il est loisible à toute communauté de faire enseigner dans ses écoles telles langues vivantes ou mortes qu'elle juge utiles.

Les dispositions de ces deux paragraphes s'appliquent également aux écoles primaires fondées et dirigées par des particuliers.

Titre XVI.—*Des Fonctionnaires.*

Art. 247. Les fonctionnaires en général sont personnellement responsables envers le Gouvernement de tous les actes accomplis par eux dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions.

Toute personne qui a subi quelque dommage par la négligence ou les actes fautifs des fonctionnaires, nommés et choisis par le Gouvernement, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions pourra poursuivre le fonctionnaire coupable, et se faire rembourser par lui les dommages et pertes qu'elle a subis, si elle établit le bien-fondé de sa réclamation. Si en ayant recours à tous les moyens judiciaires, le plaignant ne réussit pas à faire indemniser ses pertes, il peut réclamer l'indemnité du Gouvernement, qui, à son tour, se fera rembourser par le fonctionnaire coupable.

Les fonctionnaires sont seuls responsables pour leurs actes privés; les procès de ce chef ne peuvent en aucune façon atteindre le Gouvernement.

Art. 248. Les fautes et négligences des fonctionnaires dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, seront punies, conformément au règlement intérieur de sa division, par l'avertissement, le blâme, l'amende, et la suspension de ses fonctions. Ces peines sont prononcées directement par les corps dont ils dépendent.

Art. 249. La nomination, l'avancement, la destitution et la mise à la retraite des fonctionnaires des vilayets ont lieu en conformité à la loi relative aux fonctionnaires civils. Suivant les dispositions de cette loi, un fonctionnaire ne peut être destitué que dans les cas: (1) où sa nomination a été contraire à la loi; (2) lorsque, conformément au règlement intérieur du Ministère ou de la division dont il dépend, il a subi, trois fois dans l'espace d'une année, le blâme, l'amende, ou la suspension; lorsque les fonctions dont il est chargé sont supprimées, ou bien que le laps de temps déterminé pour l'accomplissement de ses fonctions est écoulé; ou bien encore lorsqu'il donne sa démission et qu'elle est acceptée; (4) lorsque cette mesure est pour le Gouvernement de nécessité impérieuse; (5) lorsque pour un crime il est condamné à l'emprisonnement ou à l'exil; (6) lorsque son incapacité à remplir ses fonctions est manifeste.

Titre XVII.—*Du choix des Fonctionnaires Civils des Vilayets.*

Art. 250. Les Valis, les Mutessarifs, et les principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet sont choisis par le Gouvernement Central et nommés en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial.

Les Caïmacamis sont choisis et nommés par le Vali parmi ceux qui ont un certificat délivré par le Ministère de l'Intérieur, ou parmi ceux choisis par les vilayets et dont l'admission aux fonctions publiques et l'emploi au poste de Caïmacam sont confirmés par le Ministère de l'Intérieur, et qui possèdent en outre un certificat d'élection. Le fait de leur nomination est porté à la connaissance du Ministère de l'Intérieur. Les Mudirs, ainsi qu'il a été indiqué dans le Titre spécial, sont choisis parmi les membres des Conseils des Nahiés élus par la population; ils sont nommés par le Mutessarif; leur nomination est signalée à l'Administration du vilayet qui la confirme, et qui, à son tour, en avertit le Ministère de l'Intérieur.

Les Mulhassébéljis des livas sont nommés par le Ministère des Finances. Les Secrétaires de la Correspondance des livas et des cazas, les Premiers Secrétaires des Administrations, des Conseils et autres, les Mahmudiris et les Perceptcurs sont nommés directement par les Valis.

Art. 251. Les connaissances et la capacité des fonctionnaires dont la nomination appartient au vilayet seront reconnues par examen de la part de la Commission du choix des fonctionnaires qui se trouvera au chef-lieu du vilayet.

Art. 252. Ceux qui voudront entrer au service des vilayets présenteront un mémoire mentionnant les dispositions, les qualités, et toutes les explications qui seraient nécessaires pour obtenir l'inscription sur le registre du choix des fonctionnaires. En se basant sur ce mémoire et après les vérifications nécessaires faites par la Commission du choix des fonctionnaires, si le postulant remplit les conditions requises, un procès-verbal le constatant sera présenté au Vali, et sur son approbation le candidat sera inscrit dans le registre. Un certificat imprimé, conforme à la souche et indiquant l'inscription du candidat sur le registre, lui sera donné. Une copie du certificat et un bulletin donnant des renseignements biographiques sur le candidat, seront envoyés au Ministère de l'Intérieur où ils devront être approuvés.

Art. 253. L'inscription, sur le registre, du choix des fonctionnaires, d'un candidat à un poste administratif, sera soumise aux conditions suivantes:—

(1.) Il ne doit avoir été soumis à aucune condamnation pour crime ou délit, et exigeant son éloignement des affaires administratives.

(2.) Sa position et ses connaissances doivent le mettre à la hauteur du poste qu'il demande.

(3.) Il ne doit pas être dans un état de vieillesse ou d'infirmité empêchant son travail.

Art. 254. Si les personnes employées jusqu'ici dans les fonctions de Caïmacam et de Mudir sont jugées par examen incapables d'exercer de pareilles fonctions, les vilayets peuvent les employer pour des postes ordinaires autres que ceux de Caïmacam ou de Mudir, selon leurs capacités.

Art. 255. Une fois que pour le service intérieur des vilayets le personnel administratif, ayant les capacités nécessaires, aura été constitué, on ne fera plus, sans nécessité réelle, des nominations de fonctionnaires, de manière à ce qu'il n'y ait plus une foule de fonctionnaires en disponibilité ou surnuméraires.

Art. 256. Les Commissions pour les choix des fonctionnaires dans les vilayets seront composées du Defterdar, du Président de la Cour d'Appel, et du "Mektoubdji." Elles se réuniront à jours fixes, et extraordinairement aussi par ordre du Vali.

Art. 257. Il y aura auprès des Commissions pour le choix des fonctionnaires un registre tenu par le service de la correspondance du vilayet; ce service s'occupera aussi de toute la correspondance de la Commission.

Art. 258. Ce registre contiendra les noms de ceux qui, jouissant des conditions indiquées à l'Article 253—

(1.) Seront envoyés au vilayet munis d'un certificat du Ministère de l'Intérieur.

(2.) Se trouveront dans le vilayet.

(3.) Viendront d'un autre vilayet sans certificat pour demander un poste.

Art. 259. Quand il se produira une vacance dans l'un des postes auxquels le Vali nomme directement, la Commission des Nominations choisira deux ou trois personnes parmi celles inscrites sur le registre, et dont la position et la carrière les rendent les plus aptes au poste vacant; la préférence à accorder à une des personnes choisies par la Commission, ainsi que sa nomination à ce poste, appartient au Vali. Seront préférés dans le choix ceux qui possèdent des certificats de l'Ecole Civile, ainsi que ceux qui dans la suite, et conformément aux nouveaux Règlements du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, obtiendront un certificat attestant qu'ils ont complété leurs études dans d'autres écoles.

Art. 260.—Une copie du registre de chaque vilayet devant être envoyée au Ministère de l'Intérieur pour l'inscription au registre général, le Tableau des modifications, à mesure qu'elles se produisent sera aussi expédié au même Ministère.

Art. 261. Les registres du choix des fonctionnaires et les Tableaux des modifications seront conformes aux modèles qui seront envoyés par la Sublime Porte. Le Conseil Administratif du vilayet ainsi que la Commission pour le choix des fonctionnaires y apposeront leurs sceaux respectifs.

Art. 262. A mesure qu'après l'exécution de leurs fonctions, d'autres charges seront confiées aux fonctionnaires, le cas sera inscrit sur leurs certificats dans la colonne relative aux changements, et confirmé par la Commission pour le choix des fonctionnaires, qui apposera son sceau au-dessous.

Titre XVIII.—*Du Jugement des Fonctionnaires.*

Art. 263. La requête exposant une plainte contre un fonctionnaire relativement à ses fonctions, sera confiée tout d'abord au Conseil Administratif local, et, sur la conclusion du Conseil, ce fonctionnaire sera interrogé par le Ministère de l'Administration dont il relève; puis le résultat de l'interrogatoire et un résumé des constatations seront écrits en appendice et les personnes chargées de l'interrogatoire y apposent leurs sceaux. De même que les Valis, Mutessarifs, et Caïmacams, ainsi que les autres Chefs d'Administration, sont autorisés, sans avoir recours au Conseil Administratif, à faire des enquêtes préliminaires au sujet des fonctionnaires, ils peuvent aussi, s'ils le jugent nécessaire, et même si le Conseil d'Administration ne juge pas les plaintes contre un fonctionnaire dignes d'être prises en considération, ordonner de faire directement les enquêtes préliminaires à son sujet. Dans tous les cas l'accusation est portée par devant les Conseils qui sont indiqués plus loin.

Art. 264. L'interrogatoire du fonctionnaire accusé, par le Ministère de l'Administration dont il dépend, est considéré comme une enquête préliminaire. Le Jugement ne peut être rendu en prenant pour base cette enquête, car celle-ci est considérée comme base d'accusation seulement.

Art. 265. Le procès-verbal des constatations préliminaires sera envoyé, selon le mode qui sera indiqué dans les Articles suivants, au Conseil auquel l'accusation sera soumise. Et d'une manière générale, pendant l'examen de l'affaire, un fonctionnaire remplira l'office de Ministère Public au nom de l'Administration ou du Ministère dont l'accusé dépend.

Art. 266. L'accusation sera confiée, dans les cazas, au Conseil Administratif du caza, lorsqu'elle est portée contre les fonctionnaires, gendarmes, et employés autres que le Caïmacam du caza, les membres élus ou de droit du Conseil Administratif, et l'officier du plus haut grade de la gendarmerie du caza.

Dans les sandjaks, au Conseil Administratif du sandjak, lorsque l'accusation est portée contre les fonctionnaires du caza dont l'accusation ne dépend pas du Conseil du Caza, et tous les fonctionnaires, gendarmes, et employés du sandjak à l'exception du Mutessarif, des membres élus ou de droit du Conseil et de l'officier du plus haut rang de la gendarmerie du sandjak.

Et au centre du vilayet, au Conseil d'Administration du vilayet, pour les Mutessarifs, les fonctionnaires du Sandjak dont l'accusation ne dépend pas du Conseil du Sandjak et pour tous les fonctionnaires de l'Administration Centrale du vilayet autres que le Vali et les principaux fonctionnaires.

Art. 267. Quand le procès-verbal des constatations préliminaires au sujet d'un fonctionnaire accusé arrivera à l'un des Conseils susmentionnés, si ce Conseil, après examen minutieux de l'affaire et interrogatoire des deux parties, juge la plainte fondée, il dresse son Rapport et confie l'affaire au Tribunal judiciaire dont elle ressort. Si la mise en accusation et le Jugement ne sont pas jugés nécessaires, on en écrit les motifs au Chef de l'Administration dont dépend le fonctionnaire et on remet à celui-ci copie légalisée de la lettre constatant le fait.

Art. 268. Pour les enquêtes préliminaires et la mise en accusation, on agira conformément à la procédure correctionnelle.

Art. 269. Les enquêtes préliminaires et la mise en accusation des principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet autres que le Vali, seront effectuées par le Conseil Administratif du vilayet et la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général conjointement réunis.

Art. 270. Dans le cas de plainte contre un Vali, l'enquête préliminaire est ordonnée par le Ministère de l'Intérieur et effectuée par un ou plusieurs fonctionnaires selon les exigences, envoyés *ad hoc* sur les lieux. Dans ce dernier cas, l'enquête sera

faite par une Commission que constitueront ces fonctionnaires et qui sera présidée par l'un d'eux. La mise en accusation doit se baser sur les documents officiels apportés par les fonctionnaires employés sur les lieux et dépendra du Conseil d'Etat. Le Jugement en première instance des Valis mis en accusation, par le Conseil d'Etat, ressort de la section correctionnelle de la Cour d'Appel de Constantinople; en appel il ressort des autres sections réunies de la même Cour; et en cassation il ressort de la Cour de Cassation.

Art. 271. Constantinople et sa banlieue étant considérés comme un vilayet dont le Vali est le Préfet de la ville, l'enquête préliminaire et la mise en accusation dans le cas de plainte contre ce dernier, s'effectuera conformément à la procédure adoptée pour les Valis. Les enquêtes préliminaires et la mise en accusation, au sujet des fonctionnaires de la Préfecture centrale et des fonctionnaires et employés des sandjaks et cazas qui dépendent de cette Préfecture, se feront conformément aux dispositions décrites dans les Articles précédents et relatives aux autres fonctionnaires de vilayet.

Les enquêtes préliminaires au sujet des fonctionnaires de la Préfecture et des Administrations, nommés par Iradé Impérial, seront effectuées par une Commission composée des Chefs des Ministères et Administrations dont ils relèvent, et la mise en accusation dépendra du Conseil d'Etat. Pour les fonctionnaires et hommes de service qui ne sont pas nommés par Iradé Impérial, les Commissions d'Enquête seront également formées des Chefs des Ministères et Administrations dont ils relèvent, mais leur mise en accusation dépendra du Conseil Administratif de la Préfecture de la ville.

Art. 272. Les fonctions de ceux au sujet desquels il y a enquête préliminaire et accusation, pourraient être confiées provisoirement à d'autres fonctionnaires, si cela est nécessaire. Il n'y aura pas destitution avant la mise en accusation, mais seulement lorsque le Rapport relatif à l'accusation sera rédigé et signé. S'il y a acquittement après le Jugement, on donnera au fonctionnaire un poste ayant l'importance de celui qu'il vient de quitter.

273. Si pendant le Jugement il est prouvé que l'accusation élevée contre un fonctionnaire est dénuée de fondement, et qu'elle est le résultat d'une calomnie, même lorsque le fonctionnaire calomnié n'intenterait pas un procès en diffamation, le Ministère ou l'Administration dont relève le fonctionnaire, rédige un acte demandant la réparation et le diffamateur sera jugé, conformément aux règles générales, par les Tribunaux ordinaires.

Titre XIX.—*De l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics.*

Art. 274. La libre possession des biens et la liberté du commerce et de l'agriculture sont assurées pour toute la population. Le Gouvernement tout en protégeant et favorisant les progrès de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et de l'Industrie, n'exercera d'ingérence dans les questions relatives à l'agriculture que pour réglementer les cultures nuisant à la salubrité publique.

Art. 275. Le Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux publics présentera chaque année au Conseil Général du Vilayet, un Rapport relatif à la prospérité de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et de l'Industrie, ainsi qu'aux améliorations à introduire dans la Ferme modèle qui sera établie dans chaque vilayet.

Art. 276. La Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics est partagée en deux sections: celle du Commerce et de l'Agriculture, et celle concernant tous les autres travaux d'utilité publique.

La section du Commerce et de l'Agriculture se composera:—

1. D'un Chef de Section;
2. De trois membres honoraires nommés par le Vali.

La section des Travaux Publics aura: (1) Un Chef de Section possédant des connaissances techniques; (2) Un Architecte; (3) Un Ingénieur des Ponts et Chaussées. Ces deux sections examinent les questions que leur soumettra le Directeur Général et exposeront leurs vues.

Art. 277. Le mode suivant lequel seront administrées, dans les sandjaks et dans les cazas, les affaires relatives à la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, sera déterminé dans le Conseil Général du vilayet, et soumis au Vali qui prendra en conséquence les mesures nécessaires d'exécution.

Art. 278. Les travaux publics seront exécutés au moyen de crédits ouverts au budget des Travaux Publics du vilayet, ou de sommes procurées par subside ou autrement.

Art. 279. Les dépenses pour travaux publics se divisent en ordinaires et extraordinaires; sont considérées comme dépenses ordinaires celles relatives à l'entretien et à la construction des édifices et travaux d'art de tout genre appartenant au vilayet, ainsi que celles correspondant à l'entretien des services qui s'y rattachent; sont considérées comme dépenses extraordinaires celles correspondant à l'exécution d'ouvrages nouveaux ou à la reconstruction et à l'amélioration de ceux déjà existants.

Art. 280. Les sommes qui seront affectées, dans le budget de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, comme subsides pour travaux d'utilité publique dont l'exécution appartient aux nahiés ou aux sociétés, sont réparties par la Direction des Travaux Publics qui en surveille aussi le bon emploi.

Art. 281. Les travaux doivent être exécutés, d'après les projets et devis dressés conformément aux règles et aux prescriptions en vigueur, afin d'assurer la régularité et l'exactitude des dits projets et devis, par l'entremise de la Direction des Travaux Publics, et après que le Conseil Général du vilayet les aura confirmés.

Il est fait exception pour les travaux publics dont le retard présente des inconvénients et dont l'exécution revient encore à cette direction, lorsque l'urgence en aura été confirmée par le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet, sur un Rapport présenté par cette direction au Vali.

Art. 282. Tout projet doit être accompagné d'un cahier des charges indiquant exactement les travaux à exécuter, et déterminant les obligations spéciales à imposer à l'entrepreneur, en dehors des conditions et des clauses générales arrêtées par les règlements spéciaux élaborés par la Direction des Travaux Publics et approuvés par le Conseil Général.

Le cahier des charges doit être dressé de façon à être indépendant des devis et analyses qui lui ont servi de base.

Art. 283. Le cahier des charges mentionne expressément si les expropriations s'opèrent aux frais du vilayet, ou si elles sont à la charge de l'entrepreneur. Les Titres de transfert et les ilmouhabers seront dressés conformément aux dispositions de la loi établie au sujet des propriétés de ce genre.

Des Contrats.

Art. 284. L'exécution des travaux et la fourniture des matériaux se font, soit à forfait d'après des contrats stipulés par la Direction des Travaux Publics ou par ces délégués, soit par régie conformément au règlement.

Art. 285. L'exécution des travaux ou la fourniture de matériaux déterminés, se fait toujours par contrat, et le prix en est établi par pièce ou par mesure.

Routes et Chemins.

Art. 286. Le classement des routes est établi dans le Titre des Ponts et Chaussées.

Des Grandes Routes de Vilayet ("djaddé").

Art. 287. La Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics déterminera, conformément au Titre de la présente loi relatif aux Ponts et Chaussées, les voies existantes ou en construction, qui sont classées parmi les grandes routes de vilayet ("djaddé"), et en dressera la liste le plus promptement possible. Cette liste sera approuvée par le Conseil Général du vilayet après avis préalable des Conseils d'Administration des livas.

Art. 288. Les dimensions à donner aux grandes routes de vilayet, et les travaux à faire pour leur construction, reconstruction, ou entretien seront arrêtés par la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, conformément au Titre qui traite des ponts et chaussées.

Art. 289. Il ne sera pas perçu de droit de péage sur les routes construites par le vilayet, sauf ceux pour le passage des fleuves et torrents sur ponts ou bacs.

Des Routes de Liva.

Art. 290. Les Conseils d'Administration des livas dresseront, dans le plus bref délai, une liste des routes comprises dans leurs sandjaks, de concert avec la Direction des Travaux Publics, et conformément au Titre relatif aux ponts et chaussées.

Art. 291. Les dimensions à donner aux routes des livas et les travaux à faire pour leur construction, reconstruction, ou entretien, seront arrêtés par la Direction de

l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, conformément au Titre relatif aux ponts et chaussées, et après avis préalable des Conseils d'Administration des livas.

Art. 292. Toute nouvelle route de sandjak est déterminée par les Conseils d'Administration des livas, et le plan dressé est exécuté, après avoir pris l'avis de la Direction des Travaux Publics.

Art. 293. L'institution et la durée des péages au profit des livas, ainsi que les Tarifs y relatifs doivent être déterminés par les Conseils d'Administration des livas, et approuvés par le Vali.

Des Chemins des Nahiés.

Art. 294. Les Conseils des nahiés dresseront, dans le plus bref délai possible, la liste des routes qu'ils voudront classer parmi les routes de nahié. Cette liste doit être approuvée par le Mutessarif, après avis préalable du Conseil d'Administration du liva.

Art. 295. Toute modification à apporter à la liste dont il est question dans l'Article précédent, doit être approuvée par le Mutessarif, après avis préalable du Conseil d'Administration du liva.

Art. 296. Les dimensions à donner aux chemins des nahiés et les travaux à faire pour leur construction, reconstruction, et entretien, sont arrêtés par la Direction des Travaux Publics, en conformité au Titre relatif aux ponts et chaussées.

Art. 297. Les Projets relatifs aux chemins vicinaux sont approuvés par le Conseil d'Administration du sandjak.

Art. 298. Les nahiés intéressées contribuent à la construction, reconstruction, et entretien des chemins des nahiés, dans la proportion de l'intérêt qu'elles ont à l'existence de ces chemins.

Art. 299. Les nahiés pourvoiront aux dépenses concernant les chemins établis sur leurs territoires respectifs, par le moyen des ressources qu'ils disposent ou des impositions qu'ils peuvent légalement établir.

Les Conseils des nahiés pourront établir des péages, avec le consentement du Mutessarif et du Conseil d'Administration du liva, pour les dépenses qui se rapportent à la construction de nouveaux chemins de nahié ou à la réparation d'anciens à neuf, lorsqu'il est reconnu que ces dépenses sont trop lourdes pour les ressources financières des habitants.

Cependant ces péages ne pourront durer que le temps nécessaire pour faire rentrer les habitants dans les déboursés qu'ils auront faits pour l'exécution des travaux; le passage par ces chemins sera libre, aussitôt ces dépenses recouvrées.

Les nahiés subviendront, avec leurs propres ressources, à l'entretien des chemins de nahié et des ponts correspondants.

Art. 300. Les péages et les Tarifs de péage non approuvés par le Conseil d'Administration de Sandjak sont de nul effet.

Dispositions générales concernant les Grandes Routes de Vilayet, les Routes de Livas, et les Chemins de Nahiés.

Art. 301. Les différends relatifs à la propriété du sol des grandes routes de vilayet, des routes de livas, et des chemins de nahiés, ainsi que ceux relatifs aux ouvrages y annexés, seront jugés par les Tribunaux ordinaires.

Art. 302. Les différends entre plusieurs livas, au sujet du tracé d'une route, sont réglés par les Mutessarifs de concert avec les Conseils d'Administration des livas intéressés.

Si l'entente ne s'établit pas entre eux, le différend est porté devant le Vali qui le tranchera d'accord avec la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général.

Art. 303. Les différends entre plusieurs nahiés, au sujet du tracé des chemins de nahié, sont vidés par le Caïmacam, sauf recours au Mutessarif.

Art. 304. Le sol des grandes routes de vilayet est la propriété du vilayet, celui des routes de livas appartient aux livas, et celui des chemins des nahiés appartient aux nahiés.

Art. 305. La Direction des Travaux Publics rédigera les instructions nécessaires concernant la police des grandes routes de vilayet, des routes des livas, et des chemins de nahiés. Ces instructions seront mises à exécution par le Vali, après avis préalable du Conseil d'Administration du vilayet.

Des Eaux Minérales.

Art. 306. La Direction des Travaux Publics élaborera les Rapports nécessaires sur le réglement ou mode d'exploitation des sources d'eaux minérales et les présentera au Vali.

Des Cours d'Eau en Général.

Art. 307. Les dispositions du livre spécial contenu dans le Médjellé ("Code des Lois") indiquent les parties auxquelles appartiennent les eaux en général, et qui doit en profiter.

Des Cours d'Eau Navigables.

Art. 308. Les cours d'eau navigables font partie de la grande voirie. Leur police réglementaire appartient à la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, et leur police répressive appartient aux Mutessarifs.

Art. 309. Les propriétaires riverains sont tenus de céder sur les rives les terrains nécessaires pour le halage qui sera réglementé par la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et les Travaux Publics, avec approbation des Conseils d'Administration.

Art. 310. Les dépenses d'endiguement et de curage des rivières navigables sont à la charge du vilayet. Si les travaux servent à la fois à la navigation et au service d'une usine, les propriétaires de celle-ci seront forcés d'y contribuer en raison des avantages qu'ils en retirent.

Art. 311. Aucune prise d'eau, aucune construction, aucuns travaux ne peuvent être faits dans le courant ou sur les rives, sans un permis de l'autorité.

Des Cours d'Eau non Navigables.

Art. 312. Les rivières qui son tseulement propres au flottage des radeaux de bois, sont considérées comme rivières non navigables.

Art. 313. Le curage et l'amélioration, ainsi que le dragage des rivières non navigables, sont à la charge des livas.

Art. 314. Les propriétaires riverains doivent exécuter et entretenir à frais communs les ouvrages jugés nécessaires par le Mutessarif pour empêcher le débordement des eaux, leur perte, ou un changement de cours. Les dépenses de ces travaux sont réparties entre ces propriétaires en proportion de l'intérêt que chacun d'eux en retire, au moyen de rôles dressés sous la surveillance des Conseils d'Administration, et recouvrées comme les contributions publiques.

Art. 315. Les contestations et réclamations qui auront lieu au sujet de la répartition indiquée dans l'Article précédent, sont jugées par les Tribunaux ordinaires, comme les différends relatifs aux affaires administratives.

Art. 316. La police répressive aussi appartient aux Tribunaux ordinaires.

Des Canaux.

Art. 317. Les canaux destinés à la navigation faisant partie de la grande voirie, leur établissement, leur entretien, et leur police sont assimilés à ceux des grandes routes de vilayet.

Art. 318. Les canaux d'irrigation appartiennent au vilayet ou aux particuliers, selon que le vilayet ou les particuliers en ont fait la dépense.

Les canaux d'irrigation sont entretenus par les propriétaires qui en profitent, et les dépenses sont réparties par l'autorité locale, sauf recours à la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général.

Art. 319. Les canaux établis pour le service des usines appartiennent à leurs propriétaires.

Art. 320. Les canaux d'irrigation et de dérivation sont placés sous la surveillance du Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, tout comme les canaux de dessèchement qui servent à faire écouler les eaux des prairies ou des marais, alors même que ces derniers canaux sont la propriété des particuliers.

Des Marais.

Art. 321. Les Valis ont la faculté d'ordonner, quand ils le jugent nécessaire, le dessèchement des marais qui se trouvent dans les vilayets. Les instructions relatives au dessèchement des marais seront rédigées par les Directeurs des Travaux Publics.

Art. 322. Tous les travaux qui ont pour but la conservation du lit des cours d'eau, servant de lignes frontières, sont à la charge du vilayet.

Art. 323. Les vilayets contribuent selon les nécessités, aux dépenses qui sont à la charge des Sociétés pour les travaux utiles à la navigation.

Art. 324. Les travaux dont l'unique but est la conservation des ponts et des routes devant servir au public, sont exécutés exclusivement par l'Administration qui est chargée de l'entretien du pont ou de la route.

Si ces travaux sont avantageux à d'autres propriétés soit publiques soit privées, les propriétaires respectifs y contribuent en raison des avantages qui en résulteront pour eux.

Art. 325. La Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics élaborera, dans le plus bref délai possible, un Règlement concernant :

1. Les Sociétés formées dans le but d'exécuter des travaux sur les cours d'eau du vilayet ;
2. Les travaux à exécuter pour ces cours d'eau ;
3. La navigation, le transport par maïones et le bois flotté ;
4. Les privilèges concédés pour dériver les cours d'eau et se servir de leur force motrice ;
5. La police des cours d'eau du vilayet.

Ce Règlement sera envoyé au Département compétent à Constantinople, après avoir été étudié dans le Conseil Général du vilayet.

Art. 326. La Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics dressera, aussitôt que faire se pourra, une liste des rivières navigables, des rivières non navigables, et des cours d'eau servant de ligne-frontière.

Des Bois et Forêts.

Bois et Forêts appartenant à l'Etat.

Art. 327. Toutes demandes en délimitation et bornage entre les forêts de l'Etat et les propriétés voisines sont adressées au Mutessarif du sandjak.

Art. 328. Les réclamations que les propriétaires peuvent former, soit pendant les opérations, soit dans le délai d'un an après que celles-ci sont terminées, doivent être adressées au Mutessarif du sandjak qui les communique à la Direction des Travaux Publics.

Art. 329. Il sera procédé à l'aménagement des forêts dont les coupes ne sont pas fixées régulièrement.

Art. 330. Les aménagements seront effectués de la manière qui sera indiquée par la Direction des Travaux Publics, conformément aux dispositions du réglement des forêts.

Art. 331. Les agents forestiers doivent adresser annuellement à la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, les états des coupes ordinaires dans les forêts déjà en exploitation ou qui se feront conformément aux us et coutumes actuellement en vigueur, dans les forêts qui ne sont pas encore aménagées. Ces états sont soumis à l'approbation de la Commission Permanente.

Les agents forestiers adressent aussi à la même Direction, pour chaque coupe extraordinaire à autoriser par une Ordonnance de la Commission Permanente, un Rapport qui doit indiquer les motifs de la coupe proposée, l'état, l'âge, la consistance et la nature des bois que la composent, le nombre des arbres tenus en réserve, ainsi que les travaux à exécuter dans l'intérêt de la forêt.

Art. 332. Les arbres provenant des coupes dans les forêts seront vendus conformément au Règlement forestier.

Art. 333. Les conditions générales des adjudications sont établies par un cahier des charges élaboré chaque année par la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, et approuvé et confirmé par la Commission Permanente. Les clauses particulières sont arrêtées par les agents forestiers. Les clauses et conditions tant générales que particulières sont obligatoirement exécutoires.

Art. 334. Le permis d'exploiter est délivré par les inspecteurs locaux des forêts, aussitôt que l'adjudicataire leur a présenté les pièces justificatives exigées à cet effet par le cahier des charges.

Art. 335. Le Directeur des Travaux Publics doit soumettre à la Commission

Permanente les projets de concession à charge de reboisement, avec toutes les pièces à l'appui.

Art. 336. Les droits habituels et les autres opérations concernant les forêts de l'Etat sont subordonnés au Règlement des forêts.

Des Bois cédés aux Villages.

Art. 337. La Direction des Travaux Publics dressera, le plus promptement possible, un état général des bois appartenant aux nahiés et aux établissements publics et qui doivent être placés sous la surveillance des agents forestiers. S'il y a contestation à ce sujet de la part des communes ou des établissements propriétaires, elle sera vidée par les Tribunaux Nizamié (civils).

Des Bois appartenant aux Particuliers.

Art. 338. Un particulier qui veut user du droit d'arracher ou de défricher ses bois est tenu d'en faire la déclaration au Caïmacam.

Le défrichement des bois dont la conservation sera reconnue nécessaire sera empêchée par le Conseil de l'Administration Locale.

Police et Conservation des Bois et Forêts.

Art. 339. La Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics soumettra au Vali un Rapport sur ces considérations concernant le Règlement des forêts

Des Mines et Minières.

Art. 340. Les lois et règlements concernant la recherche, la concession, l'exploitation, la police des mines et minières, ainsi que les mesures de sûreté et de salubrité publique lors de leur exploitation, sont maintenus en vigueur.

De la Pêche.

Art. 341. Le droit de pêche appartient à l'Etat dans les fleuves et rivières navigables, canaux et contre-fossés dont l'entretien est à sa charge. Ce droit est concédé, par voie d'adjudication aux enchères, conformément au règlement d'affermage, ou exercé en régie.

Art. 342. La pêche est soumise aux règles spéciales contenues dans le 10e Livre du Médjellé (" Codes des Lois ").

Art. 343. Les époques pendant lesquelles la pêche est interdite, dans le but de protéger la reproduction des poissons, doivent être fixées par un Règlement dressé par la Direction des Travaux Publics.

Il est également nécessaire qu'un projet de Règlement pour la conservation et la police de la pêche soit dressé et envoyé à la Sublime Porte par l'Administration générale.

Art. 344. Les dates où commence et finit l'interdiction de la pêche doivent être annoncées dans les communes, dans la semaine qui précède ces dates. Les Mutessarifs peuvent chaque année, après avoir pris l'avis des Conseils d'Administration, interdire la pêche de toutes espèces de poissons, pendant le temps que le Directeur des Travaux Publics aura fixé et quelquefois aussi dans d'autres temps, et cela exceptionnellement lorsque cette interdiction est nécessaire pour protéger la reproduction des poissons.

De la Chasse.

Art. 345. Nul ne peut chasser si la chasse n'est ouverte, et sans un permis de chasse.

Art. 346. Dans chaque sandjak, le Mutessarif fixe, par un Arrêté publié au moins dix jours à l'avance, l'époque de l'ouverture et de la fermeture de la chasse.

Art. 347. Les permis de chasse sont valables pour un an, et sont délivrés par les Caïmacams, sur l'avis des Mudirs des nahiés à qui la demande doit être adressée. Leur délivrance donnant lieu à la perception de 50 piastres, les piastres 35 reviendront au fisc et les piastres 15 au nahié dont le Mudir a donné l'avis ci-dessus énoncé.

Art. 348. Les Mutessarifs, sur l'avis des Conseil d'Administration, déterminent par un Arrêté :

1. L'époque de la chasse des oiseaux de passage, ainsi que les modes et les procédés de cette chasse;

2. Le temps pendant lequel il est permis de chasser le gibier d'eau dans les marais, sur les étangs, ruisseaux et rivières.

3. Les espèces nuisibles que le propriétaire de terres ou le cultivateur peut, en tout temps, détruire sur ses terres, et les conditions d'exercice de ce droit, sans préjudice du droit qu'ils possèdent de repousser ou de détruire, même avec les armes à feu, les bêtes qui leur causent préjudice telles que les chèvres et les cerfs.

En outre, dans le but de prévenir la destruction complète des oiseaux et d'anéantir les animaux nuisibles, ils peuvent prendre des Arrêtés à l'effet d'autoriser l'emploi des chiens de chasse et d'interdire la chasse en temps de neige.

Art. 349. Le Directeur des Travaux Publics publiera un Règlement concernant les permis de chasse et les peines à infliger pour contraventions.

Titre XX.—*De la Définition et de la Classification des Routes.*

Art. 350. Les routes hors la ville se divisent en cinq classes :—

(1.) Les routes de première classe comprennent les grandes routes qui établissent la communication entre les chefs-lieux des vilayets et Constantinople, et celles qui aboutissent aux ports de mer et aux chemins de fer ayant de l'importance sous le rapport des transports.

(2.) La deuxième classe comprend les grandes routes qui relient entre eux les chefs-lieux de vilayets ou de livas.

(3.) La troisième classe comprend les routes qui relient les cazas entre eux ou les cazas avec les grandes routes, les chemins de fer, et les ports.

(4.) La quatrième classe comprend les routes qui relient les cazas aux nahiés et ceux-ci entre eux.

(5.) La cinquième classe comprend les chemins qui relient les villages entre eux et ceux-ci aux chefs-lieux de nahiés.

Art. 351. Les largeurs des routes, non compris les talus et les accotements sont fixées comme suit, sauf les exceptions qui pourront être autorisées par le Ministère des Travaux Publics :—

Les routes de première classe auront une largeur totale de 9 mètres ainsi décomposés : 7 mètres de largeur de chaussée, et 2 mètres pour l'ensemble des deux accotements.

Les routes de deuxième classe auront 7 mètres de largeur totale dont 5 de largeur de chaussée et 2 pour les accotements.

Les routes de troisième classe auront 5·50 mètres de largeur totale dont 4 de largeur de chaussée et 1·50 mètre pour les accotements.

Les routes de quatrième et de cinquième classe auront 3 mètres de largeur totale.

Toutes les fois qu'une route se trouvant en pente, sera en tranchée de plus de 4 mètres de profondeur, la largeur de cette partie pourra être réduite à celle des routes de la classe immédiatement inférieure.

Dans les sandjaks où il y a insuffisance, par suite du nombre d'habitants, de la main-d'œuvre qu'ils auront à fournir, il sera permis de réduire la largeur des routes aux dimensions suivantes :

Les routes de première classe, 5 mètres de chaussée et 2 mètres pour les accotements, ensemble 7 mètres.

Les routes de deuxième classe, 3·50 mètres de chaussée et 1·50 pour les accotements, ensemble 5 mètres.

Les routes de troisième classe, 3 mètres de chaussée et 1 mètre pour les accotements, ensemble 4 mètres.

Les chemins de quatrième et cinquième classe auront 3 mètres de largeur.

Art. 352. Parmi les routes à créer celles qui sont les plus importantes, et dont les habitants auront à profiter le plus, seront construites les premières. Dans le cas où il serait constaté que le nombre d'ouvriers à fournir par une localité et les sommes d'argent affectées à une route dont la construction a commencé, ne suffiront pas pour la compléter d'une extrémité à l'autre, ses parties les plus accidentées seront construites et nivelées d'abord, de même que celles en contre-bas du sol environnant ; dans les années suivantes on l'achèvera graduellement en lui donnant les dimensions indiquées à l'Article 351 précédent.

Art. 353. Le tracé des routes ne devra pas, en principe, avoir des pentes supérieures à 6 pour cent ; cependant le Ministère des Travaux Publics pourra augmenter cette limite, suivant la configuration des contrées et la difficulté des travaux.

Art. 354. L'épaisseur des chaussées formées de graviers et de pierres carrées sera au minimum de 25 centim. pour les routes de première et deuxième classe, de 20 centim. pour les routes de troisième classe.

Les plus grosses pierres seront toujours disposées à la partie inférieure de la chaussée ; à la surface les pierres ne devront pas avoir une grosseur de plus de 6 centim.

Le profil transversal des chaussées sera régulièrement dressé ; il présentera un bombement transversal maximum de 3 pour cent à partir de l'axe vers les arêtes latérales.

Art. 355. Les routes et chemins seront bordés de fossés du côté où ils se trouveront soit en déblai soit au niveau du sol. Si la route est sur un terrain présentant une pente transversale, il y aura constamment un fossé du côté le plus élevé du terrain ; de l'autre côté, s'il y a danger, on établira soit un mur, soit une barrière solide.

Les fossés latéraux des routes auront au minimum 35 centim. de largeur de fond et une profondeur d'au moins 50 centim.

On pourra se dispenser des fossés sur une route établie sur le roc.

Art. 356. A la rencontre des cours d'eau et ruisseaux, il sera établi des ponts ou des aqueducs ; mais en attendant leur exécution, on y fera les pavages nécessaires pour maintenir les gués à leur profondeur et garantir les chemins contre les évasions des courants qui les traversent.

Art. 357. Sur les bords des routes on fera des plantations d'arbres à croissance rapide, et que l'on prendra dans les environs.

Du Service des Prestataires et de la durée de ce Service.

Art. 358. Tous les habitants âgés de plus de 16 ans et de moins de 60 ans sont tenus de fournir gratuitement quatre journées de travail par an, ou vingt journées en cinq années, pour la construction des routes des cinq classes sus-mentionnées. Ce travail constitue la prestation ("amélé mukellefé"). De même les bêtes de trait ou de somme de tous les habitants sans exception, seront employées aux travaux de transport de ces routes, et à titre gratuit, 4 jours par an ou 20 jours en cinq ans.

Dans chaque vilayet, le Conseil Général pourra, selon les besoins et l'importance des travaux, décider l'addition de prestations supplémentaires jusqu'à concurrence de deux journées par an ou dix journées en cinq ans. En cas d'urgence et par décision de la Sublime Porte, la prestation pourra être employée pour le service des fortifications et jamais pour toute autre construction.

Art. 359. Les prestataires peuvent fournir en personne le travail qui leur incombe ou bien se faire remplacer ; mais ce travail ne pourra jamais être racheté pécuniairement.

Art. 360. La prestation est due collectivement par chaque localité, ville, bourg, ou village.

Les prestataires sont tenus de travailler à la journée aux divers services organisés par les fonctionnaires, ou bien le travail leur est confié à forfait.

Art. 361. Dans ce dernier cas, c'est-à-dire si les travaux sont confiés à forfait aux prestataires, on prendra pour base le calcul ci-après.

On considérera une journée de travail :

Le déblai de 2 mètres cubes de terre ordinaire et leur transport à une distance de 30 mètres ; le nivellement de la plate-forme des accotements dans la partie déblayée et celui de la plate-forme de la partie de route que ces déblais ont servi à remblayer ;

Ou, dans les terres fortes dont l'extraction exige l'emploi du pic :

Le déblai de 1 mètre cube de terre transportée à une distance de 30 mètres et versée en remblai, ainsi que le travail ci-dessus indiqué ;

Ou dans le roc dont l'extraction exige l'emploi de la poudre :

Le déblai de ½ mètre cube ainsi que le transport et le nivellement comme ci-dessus ;

Ou le cassage de ½ mètre cube de pierre dure en fragments assez petits pour que chacun d'eux puisse passer dans tous les sens à travers un anneau de 6 centim. de diamètre, pour servir à l'empierrement de la chaussée ;

Ou bien encore tout travail techniquement équivalent à l'un des précédents.

Quant à la journée d'animal ou de chariot, elle sera calculée pour le transport à

une distance de 10 kilom. sur les poids suivants:—150 okes par chameau, 80 okes par cheval ou mulet, 40 okes par âne, 300 okes par chariot à bulles, 250 okes par chariot à bœufs, 200 okes par chariot à cheval.

Art. 362. La tâche à forfait de chaque ville, bourg, et village sera répartie entre leurs prestataires par ces localités.

Sont dispensés de la prestation les Cheiks dévots, les Imams, les maîtres d'école et professeurs, les prêtres des différents cultes Chrétiens, les Rabbins; mais cette dispense ne s'étend qu'à leurs personnes et nullement à leurs bestiaux.

Seront également exemptés de la prestation les infirmes, les militaires en activité de service et les gendarmes.

La liste indiquant les noms et prénoms des exempts devra être dressée par le Conseil des Anciens, qui l'adressera au chef-lieu du caza.

Si un habitant d'une localité est absent pour ses affaires de commerce ou autres, il n'en restera pas moins prestataire, et il devra se faire remplacer par quelqu'un.

De la Confection des Rôles des Prestataires.

Art. 363. Chaque Conseil des Anciens dressera une liste indiquant le nombre exact des prestataires et des bestiaux de son village ou quartier, et publiera cette liste sur les lieux, un mois avant le 1er Mars.

Art. 364. Un délai de quinze jours, à partir de la date de cette publication, est accordé aux prestataires pour qu'ils puissent exposer les réclamations qu'ils formeraient soit pour eux-mêmes soit pour des tiers et faire rectifier la liste, s'il y a lieu.

Art. 365. A l'expiration de ce délai, la liste scellée au bas sera envoyée au Caïmacam du caza. Le Caïmacam après avoir fait inscrire les listes qui lui parviendront, dans un registre spécial, en expédiera une copie au chef-lieu du vilayet par l'entremise du Mutessarif.

Art. 366. Le Conseil des Anciens fixera l'époque pendant laquelle les prestataires pourront fournir leur service et l'indiquera dans la liste. Les prestataires seront réquisitionnés aux époques ainsi fixées. Cette époque sera établie de façon à gêner le moins possible les populations dans leurs cultures ou leurs industries spéciales.

Art. 367. Les Conseils des Anciens sont autorisés à soumettre au Caïmacam du caza dont ils relèvent, les demandes qui leur sont faites par les habitants au sujet des constructions et des travaux de routes, ainsi que leurs propres observations.

Art. 368. A moins d'autorisation spéciale de la Sublime Porte, les villes, bourgs et villages, éloignés de plus de huit heures de distance d'une route, ne devront pas être appelés à fournir des prestations sur cette route. Les localités intéressées à une route contribueront par leurs prestations à son exécution, même si elle se trouvait sur le territoire d'un autre vilayet. Dans le cas où les Valis de ces vilayets ne pourront pas s'entendre à ce sujet, ils en référeront à la Sublime Porte qui décidera.

Organisation du Service de Construction des Routes.

Art. 369. Les Valis des vilayets et suivant les ordres qu'ils donneront, les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams sont chargés de faire procéder à la construction, à la réparation, et à l'entretien des routes, à l'aide des prestations fournies par les populations et des ressources allouées à cet effet.

Conformément à la loi sur l'administration des vilayets, chaque vilayet aura un Directeur des Travaux Publics, et sous sa présidence un Conseil chargé des affaires concernant les ponts et chaussées. Les documents venus des livas seront en premier lieu examinés dans ce Conseil.

Art. 370. La construction des chemins reliant les villages d'un nahié sera décidée dans le Conseil de ce nahié.

Le Conseil d'Administration du caza, sur la proposition du Conseil de Nahié, décide de la construction des routes reliant les nahiés entre eux et ceux-ci au chef-lieu du caza. Cette construction devra d'ailleurs être approuvée par le Conseil d'Administration du liva.

La construction des routes reliant les cazas entre eux et ceux-ci au chef-lieu du livra sera, sur la proposition des Conseils d'Administration des cazas, décidée par le Conseil d'Administration du liva et approuvée par le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet.

La construction des routes reliant les livas entre eux et ceux-ci au chef-lieu du vilayet, ainsi que de celles reliant les vilayets entre eux et ceux-ci aux ports importants,

aux chemins de fer et à la capitale, sera décidée par le Conseil Général du vilayet, sur la proposition du Conseil d'Administration, et devra être approuvée par le Ministère des Travaux Publics.

Art. 371. Les dépenses ordinaires pour la construction des routes, en dehors du service des prestataires, comprenant le traitement du personnel, l'achat de la poutre, des instruments et outils nécessaires, seront fournies par les Caisses publiques locales en conformité à la décision rendue par le Conseil-Général de Vilayet, dans la limite des sommes affectées à ce chapitre dans le budget du vilayet, et en proportion de la répartition de ces sommes entre les livas, les cazas, et les nahiés.

Art. 372. Dans chaque vilayet, la gestion des affaires concernant les prestataires revient au Directeur des Travaux Publics du vilayet.

Dans chaque sandjak, un intendant des routes ("tarik émini"), un sergent ("tchaouch") et les prestataires seront réunis pendant les travaux; et dans chaque caza, il se trouvera un collecteur ("sevk ménoure") chargé d'amener les prestataires.

En outre de ces fonctionnaires, il y aura dans chaque vilayet un Ingenieur-en-chef chargé de la rédaction des projets, de la direction technique et de l'évaluation de tous les travaux. Il sera nommé par le Ministère des Travaux Publics et sur la demande que les autorités locales lui adresseront selon les besoins. Sous les ordres de l'Ingénieur-en-chef seront placés des ingénieurs, des conducteurs et autres employés techniques dont le nombre sera fixé suivant les besoins.

L'Ingénieur-en-chef est de droit membre du Conseil des Travaux Publics du vilayet.

Art. 373. Les ingénieurs et conducteurs sont nommés par le Ministère des Travaux Publics sur la proposition de la Direction Générale des Ponts et Chaussées, et suivant la demande qui en sera faite par chaque localité. Les piqueurs et les surveillants seront nommés par le Vali sur la demande de l'Ingénieur-en-chef.

Les cantonniers seront nommés par le Mutessarif sur la demande de l'ingénieur des routes.

Les traitements de tous ces fonctionnaires sont fixés, selon l'importance des attributions de chacun, par les Conseils d'Administration Locaux.

Art. 374. Le Directeur des Travaux Publics de chaque vilayet est nommé par le Ministère de l'Intérieur, sur le rapport du Vali; les intendants des routes des sandjaks sont nommés par les Valis, sur le rapport des Mutessarifs; les sergents sont nommés par les Mutessarifs, sur la demande des intendants des routes; le Collecteur sera élu, en Conseil de Caza, parmi les fonctionnaires existants.

Tous ces employés sont soumis hiérarchiquement au Directeur des Travaux Publics qui est lui-même sous les ordres du Vali.

Art. 375. Les Valis feront dresser, par l'entremise du Conseil des Travaux Publics du vilayet, et soumettront aux délibérations du Conseil Général de Vilayet qui se réunira chaque année, un Tableau indiquant les parties de routes qu'il sera nécessaire de construire dans le vilayet pendant l'année suivante, les prestataires à convoquer pour leur construction; le budget à allouer pour l'année; le nombre des employés à désigner, et le chiffre des traitements qu'il faudra leur allouer.

Art. 376. Le Conseil Général de chaque vilayet discutera et délibérera sur les Tableaux relatifs aux routes que le Vali aura, comme il est dit ci-dessus, soumis à ses délibérations; il déterminera les routes à construire pendant l'année suivante, ainsi que les sommes d'argent à affecter à ces constructions, en indiquant la part qui sera fournie par le vilayet et celle qu'il sera nécessaire de demander au Gouvernement, suivant l'Article 153 de la Loi sur l'Administration des Vilayets. Il fixera le nombre de prestataires qu'il faudra convoquer.

Son procès-verbal concernant celles des questions pour lesquelles une autorisation est nécessaire, sera envoyé au Ministère des Travaux Publics avec la lettre du Vali du vilayet.

Le Ministère des Travaux Publics examinera ces procès-verbaux des vilayets; il répartira, selon l'importance des routes à construire dans chaque vilayet, les sommes destinées dans son budget au Chapitre des ponts et chaussées, et après avoir soumis l'affaire à la Sublime Porte, il écrira aux Valis en conformité des ordres qu'il aura reçu d'elle. Sur ce, les Valis donneront des ordres pour les constructions, selon les sommes allouées à leurs vilayets respectifs par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, et les fonds fixés par décision des Conseils Généraux.

Art. 377. Le Directeur des Travaux Publics et l'Ingénieur-en-chef dresseront ensemble un projet de répartition entre les villes, bourgs, et villages de ceux des travaux qui doivent être exécutés pendant l'année, en conformité à la décision du Conseil Général du vilayet. Ils indiquent pour chaque ville, bourg, et village, selon

le nombre exigible de ses prestataires hommes ou animaux, en tenant compte de sa distance aux travaux :

La longueur et la largeur de route dont il devra effectuer les terrassements ; la largeur sur laquelle il devra construire la chaussée ; le cube de pierres cassées à fournir ; le nombre de prestations qu'il devra fournir.

Ce projet examiné par le Conseil des Travaux Publics et par le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet et approuvé, sera communiqué par le Vali, avec les ordres nécessaires aux Mutessarifs, et par ceux-ci aux Caïmcams.

Art. 378. Le Ministère des Travaux Publics, sur les documents qu'il aura reçus des vilayets, dressera un projet indiquant les routes construites et celles à construire tous les ans dans les vilayets par la direction des ponts et chaussées, et contenant les suggestions qu'il croira devoir faire pour l'amélioration du service des routes et la modification des règlements d'après l'expérience qui en aura été faite.

Ce projet, après examen dans le Conseil du Ministère, sera présenté à la Sublime Porte.

De l'Entretien et de la Réparation des Routes.

Art. 379. Les travaux à faire pour l'entretien des routes livrées à la circulation et sur lesquelles il a été exécuté des travaux de terrassement et de chaussée consistent en travaux d'entretien ordinaire et en réparations extraordinaires.

Art. 380. L'entretien ordinaire des routes aura pour objet de conserver à la chaussée une surface unie, ferme, sans couche nuisible de poussière ou de boue, sans ornières ni dépressions apparentes ; à empêcher le séjournement des eaux pluviales sur les accotements ou dans les fossés de la route. L'approvisionnement des matériaux aura pour but de mettre en réserve le long de la route aux endroits convenables pour combler les vides et réparer l'usure que produit la circulation à la surface des chaussées. Les réparations extraordinaires consistent à rétablir les portions de terrassement ou de chaussée endommagées accidentellement par les orages ou les inondations, à enlever sous les ponts et aqueducs les dépôts des eaux torrentielles, et à restaurer les ouvrages d'art.

Art. 381. L'entretien ordinaire des routes sera confié à des cantonniers payés.

De l'Inspection des Travaux.

Art. 382. Un Inspecteur pour chaque groupe de trois vilayets, où il y a des travaux en exécution, sera nommé et envoyé par le Ministère des Travaux Publics pour inspecter constamment les routes des vilayets, et vérifier si les travaux sont exécutés conformément à la loi sur les ponts et chaussées.

Art. 383. Le journal du vilayet publiera, à la fin de chaque année, le nombre de prestataires employés dans chaque sandjak, les noms des villes, bourgs, et villages qui les ont fournis, les longueurs de routes qui ont été construites par ces prestataires, ainsi que les réparations exécutées. Le résumé de ces publications sera envoyé au Ministère des Travaux Publics et de là à la Sublime Porte, et sera publié aussi dans les journaux de Constantinople.

Du Personnel Technique et Administratif.

Art. 384. Le personnel technique se compose :—

1. Des ingénieurs chargés de faire les tracés et les projets de travaux, d'en diriger et d'en constater l'exécution.

2. Des conducteurs chargés de la conduite et du mesurage des travaux, du tracé de détail, des ouvrages, du maniement et bon emploi des instruments et outils ; ils veillent aussi à la bonne distribution du travail entre les ouvriers ;

3. Des piquers et surveillants chargés d'aider les conducteurs et de surveiller soit à la présence des ouvriers soit à l'exécution des travaux suivant les prescriptions des ingénieurs et des conducteurs ;

4. Des cantonniers chargés d'entretenir une certaine longueur de route.

Les élèves sortant de l'Ecole du Génie Civil seront préférés aux autres dans l'emploi au service comme conducteurs.

Art. 385. Dans chaque vilayet désigné par le Ministère des Travaux Publics et sur la demande qui en sera faite, il y aura en permanence un Ingénieur-en-chef et un conducteur.

Sur la proposition du Vali le personnel permanent pourra être augmenté pendant

les études ou les travaux, de conducteurs et de piqueurs, et cela avec l'approbation du Ministère des Travaux Publics.

Un Ingénieur-en-chef sera nommé pour chaque vilayet.

Un conducteur au plus pour chaque section de route en construction, de 20 kilom. de longueur.

Un cantonnier au plus pour chaque section de 2 kilom. et demi en construction.

Un cantonnier au plus par portion de route de 2 à 8 kilom. à entretenir.

La nomination d'un plus grand nombre d'employés n'est pas admise.

Art. 386. Les Ingénieurs-en-chef sont sous la surveillance des Valis des vilayets. Ils transmettront leur correspondance, c'est-à-dire leurs Rapports au Ministère des Travaux Publics, par l'entremise des Valis.

Les Ingénieurs, les conducteurs, et les piquers sont hiérarchiquement subordonnés les uns aux autres et à l'Ingénieur-en-chef qui leur donne ou transmet les ordres et instructions de toute nature.

Art. 387. Le personnel administratif comprend :

Le Directeur des Travaux Publics, les Intendants, Secrétaires et sergents nécessaires, ainsi que les collecteurs employés pendant les travaux pour la réquisition des prestataires.

Les Intendants sont chargés de préparer tous les documents relatifs aux prestations, de provoquer l'acquittement en temps utile des prestations, de faire procurer aux ingénieurs les moyens et ressources nécessaires pour les études ou les travaux, de faire effectuer le paiement des dépenses constatés par les ingénieurs.

Les Secrétaires sont chargés de la tenue des écritures.

Les sergents sont chargés de porter les ordres et la correspondance concernant le service des routes.

Des Dépenses d'Entretien des Routes.

Art. 388. Les cantonniers seront chargés de la réparation et de l'entretien d'une section de route de 2 à 8 kilom. (canton) selon le degré de difficulté, ainsi qu'il a été dit à l'Article 385.

Tous les cantonniers échelonnés sur chaque section de route de 30 kilom. de longueur formeront une compagnie placée sous les ordres d'un chef cantonnier.

Art. 389. Les chefs cantonniers et cantonniers seront nommés sous caution par l'autorité locale, sur la demande de l'ingénieur, sous les conditions de n'être pas trop âgés pour le travail, d'avoir déjà travaillé sur les ateliers de routes, et d'avoir un certificat de moralité délivré par l'autorité locale. Les chefs cantonniers doivent aussi savoir lire et écrire.

On choisira de préférence pour les cantonniers et les chefs cantonniers d'anciens militaires.

Art. 390. Le cantonnier devra travailler sur son canton chaque jour depuis une heure après le lever jusqu'à une heure avant le coucher du soleil, excepté aux heures qui leur sont assignées pour le repos par leurs chefs selon la saison ; dans tous les cas leur travail ne doit pas durer moins de huit heures par jour.

Art. 391. Le cantonnier est responsable de la conservation des outils et instruments qui lui seront confiés pour les travaux, et il devra les entretenir en bon état.

Les cantonniers porteront un signe distinctif, et ils seront autorisés à porter des armes pour leur sûreté personnelle et pour secourir en cas de besoin les voyageurs.

Art. 392. Le cantonnier habitera avec sa famille, s'il en a, une maisonnette que l'autorité fera construire sur le bord de la route.

Il pourra cultiver les terrains vagues voisins de sa maisonnette, et cela sans porter préjudice à son travail principal.

Art. 393. Le chef cantonnier résidera autant que possible au centre de sa section. Il y fera des tournées fréquentes pour s'assurer de la manière dont les cantonniers font leur service, pour leur donner ou leur transmettre les instructions techniques des ingénieurs.

Le chef cantonnier étant sous les ordres de l'ingénieur et des conducteurs, leur fera connaître toutes les particularités ou les besoins du service de l'entretien. Il est d'ailleurs chargé de dénoncer à l'autorité locale les individus qui dégraderaient les travaux des routes.

Art. 394. Lorsque des réparations exceptionnelles d'une route devront être exécutées immédiatement et d'urgence, le chef cantonnier pourra réunir, sur le point à réparer, plusieurs cantonniers de sa compagnie, et au besoin réclamer

directement aux anciens des villages les plus voisins un nombre suffisant de prestataires.

S'il s'agit de travaux entraînant des dépenses à payer en argent ou bien de travaux qui peuvent sans inconvénient être retardés, ils seront portés à la connaissance du fonctionnaire dont ils relèvent et il sera pourvu à leur exécution de la façon indiquée pour la construction même des routes.

Pour toutes les réparations de ce genre, le chef cantonnier remplit en même temps les fonctions attribuées au piquer et aux collecteurs.

Art. 395. Les cantonniers recevront leur traitement par l'intermédiaire du chef cantonnier.

A cet effet, le chef cantonnier à l'aide des bulletins de paiement des cantonniers qui lui seront remis directement par le fonctionnaire son supérieur, touchera à la Caisse du Trésor et en donnant un reçu provisoire, le montant des traitements de sa compagnie. Puis dans un délai de huit jours il devra avoir remis à chaque cantonnier la somme qui lui revient, lui avoir fait apposer son cachet sur son bulletin de paiement, et avoir porté tous ces bulletins au caissier, qui en échange lui rendra son reçu provisoire.

Du Mode d'Exécution des Articles contenus dans ce Titre.

Art. 396. L'Ingénieur-en-chef, à l'époque désignée pour commencer les travaux, fera piqueter la route par les conducteurs sous ses ordres. Il indiquera ensuite au Caïmacam et aux collecteurs de chaque caza les portions de routes assignées à forfait à ce caza et à chacun de ses villages qui auront à prendre part aux travaux.

Le collecteur du caza aura soin de la conservation des piquets plantés pour indiquer les limites des travaux à forfait ; il travaillera suivant les prescriptions et les injonctions des ingénieurs et des conducteurs, et il surveillera les prestataires du caza.

Art. 397. Les prestataires de chaque ville, bourg, et village seront tous solidairement responsables de l'exécution de la tâche qui leur est imposée ; ils seront libres de choisir pour le travail les jours qui leur conviendront davantage, ou de faire exécuter leur tâche par des ouvriers à leurs gages, pourvu que la tâche soit achevée dans les délais fixés.

Art. 398. Lorsque les prestataires d'une ville, bourg, ou village auront achevé leur tâche, le conducteur, conformément au calcul des travaux sur la base indiquée à l'Article 12, fera le mesurage et le cubage des travaux et il en fera connaître le résultat à l'Ingénieur-en-chef. Si les travaux exécutés répondent bien à la tâche assignée, l'Ingénieur-en-chef rédigera et détachera d'un registre à souche un bulletin collectif d'aquit prestation au nom de la ville, bourg, ou village, et il l'adressera à l'Intendant, qui doit le viser et l'enregister.

Si la prestation acquittée est inférieure ou supérieure à la tâche assignée, la différence sera indiquée dans le bulletin pour être portée en compte l'année suivante.

Art. 399. Si les prestataires au lieu de travailler à la tâche étaient employés à la journée, leur présence sera constatée chaque jour par un piqueur sur une feuille d'appel qu'il exhibera au conducteur pour la faire certifier par lui.

A la fin des travaux, il sera délivré un bulletin qui sera dressé en conformité à cette liste d'appel certifiée par le conducteur et qui portera les signatures et les sceaux du conducteur et de l'Intendant des routes. Si le nombre des prestataires est inférieur ou supérieur au nombre requis, la différence sera notée sur le bulletin, afin qu'il en soit tenu compte l'année suivante.

Art. 400. Il sera tenu compte aux prestataires des distances parcourues pour se rendre de leur village au lieu d'exécution des travaux.

Art. 401. Les ouvriers payés auxquels il faudra recourir pour les ouvrages d'art, seront fournis par l'autorité locale, sur la proposition du Directeur des Travaux Publics et de l'Ingénieur-in-chef.

Art. 402. S'il y a des marchés ou des contrats à faire pour fourniture de matériaux et d'instruments et pour l'exécution d'ouvrages non mis à la charge des prestataires, ils pourront être conclus par le Directeur des Travaux Publics et l'Ingénieur-en-chef, à la condition qu'ils ne portent pas sur une dépense de plus de 500 piastres.

Si la dépense doit dépasser 500 piastres, le contrat préparé par l'Ingénieur-en-chef et l'Intendant devra être approuvé par le Conseil d'Administration du Sandjak.

Si cela paraît convenable, il y aura mise en adjudication par le Conseil assisté de l'Ingénieur-en-chef et de l'Intendant ; mais on n'admettra à l'adjudication que des concurrents présentant un cautionnement d'une dixième de la valeur de la fourniture

à faire ou un garant pour la même valeur et ayant en outre un certificat délivré par l'Ingénieur-en chef et témoignant de leur capacité pour le travail dont il s'agit.

Art. 403. L'Ingénieur-en-chef pourra faire directement l'achat d'objets divers pour le service, autres que matériaux de construction, jusqu'à concurrence de 100 piastres au plus par mois, somme qui pourra être mise à sa disposition et payée par la Caisse du Trésor sur la demande collective du Directeur des Travaux Publics et de l'Ingénieur-en-chef.

Art. 404. La surveillance des travaux payés à la journée ou à la tâche ou exécutés en vertu de contrats ou d'adjudications sera confiée à un piquer qui veillera à ce que les ouvriers à la journée ne s'absentent pas du lieu des travaux et à ce que les travaux payés à la tâche soient exécutés conformément aux prescriptions des contrats et aux instructions techniques de l'Ingénieur-en-chef. Le piqueur soumettra ses feuilles d'appel au conducteur qui en enverra les extraits nécessaires à l'Ingénieur-en-chef.

Art. 405. Toutes les dépenses du service pour traitement ou frais de route d'agents techniques, journées d'ouvriers, travaux ou fournitures quelconques, seront constatées sur des bulletins de paiement dressés par l'Ingénieur-en-chef et indiquant le nom de la partie prenante, la nature et la quantité du travail ou de la fourniture, le prix et la somme à payer. Chaque bulletin sera détaché d'une double souche dont l'une restera chez l'Ingénieur-en-chef et dont l'autre sera présentée au Directeur des Travaux Publics qui y apposera son cachet et la remettra à la partie prenante. Celui-ci à son tour ayant cacheté son bulletin, le fera ordonnancer par le Mutessarif ou le Caïmacam, et après payement le laissera à titre de reçu à la Caisse.

Art. 406. La coopération collective de l'Ingénieur-en-chef et du Directeur des Travaux Publics aura également lieu en conformité à l'Article précédent, dans le règlement des appointements du personnel administratif autre que les ingénieurs, ainsi que des dépenses qui seront faites par le Directeur des Travaux Publics.

Art. 407. A la fin de chaque mois, le Directeur des Travaux Publics se fera remettre le Tableau de toutes les dépenses effectuées par les Caisses publiques pour le service des routes, et les confrontera avec les registres et les souches qui se trouvent chez lui. Il soumettra cette pièce au Vali et y joindra un Tableau montrant, d'après les certificats de l'Ingénieur-en-chef, le nombre des prestations restant à acquitter par chaque ville, bourg, ou village, la valeur en argent des travaux en régie, en distinguant les sommes restant à payer.

Il présentera en même temps au Vali toutes propositions qu'il croira utiles pour faire activer la marche des travaux.

Art. 408. L'Ingénieur-en-chef dressera chaque mois, dans la forme arrêtée par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, un Tableau indiquant le degré d'avancement des divers travaux. Il en enverra une copie au Ministère, par l'entremise du Vali.

Art. 409. Sont abrogés, à dater de la publication de la présente loi, le Règlement des ponts et chaussées du 18 Djémazil-evvel, 1286, les instructions générales de même date relatives à la construction et exploitation des ponts et chaussées, et l'appendice au Règlement daté du 16 Rébi-ul-evvel, 1284.

Titre XXI.—*Des Revenus.*

Art. 410. La quotité des impôts soit directs soit indirects, des dîmes et des autres contributions, ainsi que leur mode de répartition et de perception seront réformés par des règlements nouveaux.

Jusqu'à ce que ces nouveaux règlements aient été dressés et publiés, les lois et règlements actuels resteront en vigueur, avec cette différence que le système d'affermage des dîmes est désormais aboli. Seulement jusqu'à ce que l'impôt foncier destiné à remplacer les dîmes, ait été établi, leur perception, leur enregistrement, et la gestion des opérations qui s'y rapportent seront effectués par l'entremise du bureau de la régie des dîmes qui sera créé au Ministère des Finances et des Délégués permanents de dîmes qui seront nommés dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets, livas, et cazas. Des instructions spéciales du Ministère des Finances régleront les attributions de la régie des dîmes et des préposés aux dîmes qui se trouvent dans les vilayets. L'Administration des revenus des moutons et les opérations qui s'y rapportent seront confiées à la régie des dîmes et à ses succursales.

Art. 411. Le corps des gendarmes et la police ne s'immisceront pas dans la perception des revenus. Il sera formé dans chaque vilayet une classe de percepteurs composée

des diverses populations. Un règlement spécial déterminera les attributions de ces percepteurs et les conditions qu'ils doivent remplir.

Art. 412. Un Tableau indiquant la nature et la quantité des blés et grains provenant des dîmes perçues dans chaque caza sera envoyé une fois tous les quinze jours par le préposé aux dîmes du caza à celui du sandjak et par ce dernier à celui des vilayets.

Les Tableaux expédiés des livas aux chefs-lieux des vilayets seront tous les quinze jours envoyés par les préposés aux dîmes des vilayets à la régie des dîmes.

Art. 413. La nature et la quantité des blés et grains provenant des dîmes, la date de leur perception, ainsi que les autres détails et opérations, seront respectivement inscrits dans un registre soit à la régie des dîmes soit chez les préposés aux dîmes des vilayets, livas, et cazas. Ces registres seront imprimés et toutes les pages marquées aux sceaux des préposés aux dîmes et des délégués des finances.

Art. 414. Un garde-dépôt sera nommé dans chaque caza pour la réception des blés et grains. Ces gardes-dépôts devront fournir des garanties aux Conseils d'Administration Locaux et seront changés tous les deux ans conformément à la règle établie pour les Cassiers publics.

Art. 415. Il y aura dans chaque vilayet et en permanence un inspecteur des dîmes. Les attributions de ces inspecteurs seront déterminées par des instructions ultérieures du Ministère des Finances.

Art. 416. Les blés et grains perçus dans chaque caza seront vendus aux enchères par une décision des Conseils d'Administration Locaux. La mise aux enchères se fera d'abord au siège du Caza et à ceux des livas et des vilayets ensuite. Les détails et les décisions concernant leur adjudication seront publiés par le journal officiel du vilayet et par des feuilles imprimées dans les sandjaks et dans les cazas.

Art. 417. Un livre journal imprimé ayant ses pages numérotées et scellées se trouvera chez les préposés aux dîmes pour être destiné à la taxe des moutons.

Art. 418. Des récépissés distincts seront délivrés par les délégués respectifs à tous ceux qui acquittent la taxe des moutons. Ces récépissés seront aussi scellés et à souche.

De la Nature et de la Qualité de l'Impôt sur les Immeubles et sur les Bénéfices.

Art. 419. L'impôt sur les immeubles est de deux sortes: l'une est perçue sur la valeur des terres et habitations, et l'autre soit sur la valeur, soit sur le revenu annuel des immeubles fournissant un revenu.

Art. 420. La quotité de l'impôt sur la valeur et sur le revenu des immeubles est diminuée ou augmentée par un Iradé Impérial, sur la loi du budget approuvé par le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés, selon les besoins du Gouvernement.

Art. 421. L'impôt sur les bénéfices est celui qui se perçoit, dans une proportion déterminée, sur les bénéfices annuels de chaque individu qui s'occupe du commerce, d'un métier ou d'un art, ainsi que sur le traitement des fonctionnaires et autres. Le montant de cet impôt est augmenté ou diminué, suivant les besoins de l'état, par un Iradé Impérial, sur la loi du budget financier que le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés auront approuvé.

De l'Evaluation et de la Perception de l'Impôt sur les Immeubles et sur les Bénéfices.

Art. 422. L'estimation de la valeur et du revenu d'une propriété immobilière et des bénéfices d'un commerçant ou d'un artisan, se fait par des estimateurs impartiaux, capables, et assermentés, élus dans chaque localité par les Conseils Municipaux et Communaux. Ces estimateurs seront au nombre de quatre dont deux élus, comme il est dit ci-dessus, par les Conseils Municipaux et Communaux, et deux autres par l'autorité locale. Ils sont assistés de deux autres estimateurs nommés par les catégories respectives de commerçants, artisans, et diverses corporations pour l'évaluation de leurs bénéfices.

Art. 423. Au fur et à mesure que la valeur et la rente des terres et des immeubles bâtis augmente ou diminue, leur évaluation sera faite à nouveau par des estimateurs nommés suivant le mode indiqué dans l'Article 422 ci-dessus, et les impôts seront modifiés selon les nouvelles estimations. Mais ces impôts seront exigibles à partir du commencement de l'année financière prochaine, et non pas de la date à laquelle auront lieu les estimations et modifications.

Art. 424. Dans le cas où les prix évalués par les estimateurs seraient contestés par les propriétaires des immeubles, un acte de contestation, avec un exposé des

motifs et des arguments, sera présenté au Conseil Municipal et Communal du lieu où se trouve l'immeuble, dans l'espace d'un mois à compter de la date à laquelle le "kotchan" a été délivré. Les dits Conseils examineront ces actes des contestations dans le délai de quinze jours à dater de leur présentation, et ils confirmeront l'avis des estimateurs ou la réclamation du propriétaire, ou bien ils prendront une autre estimation et évaluation.

Art. 425. Dans le cas où les propriétaires d'immeubles contesteraient encore les prix évalués par les Conseils Municipaux et Communaux, ou que les préposés aux impôts n'admettraient pas leur décision, on aura recours au Conseil d'Administration du caza dont relève le nahié, dans le délai de quinze jours au plus, et ce Conseil donnera son avis dans les quinze jours, à partir de la date du recours. La décision du Conseil Administratif du caza est sans appel.

Art. 426. C'est aux Conseils Municipaux de Constantinople que sont portées les contestations de cette nature qui ont lieu dans la capitale, et le Conseil d'Administration de la Préfecture les examine et décide en dernier lieu.

La décision de ce Conseil aussi est sans appel.

Art. 427. Les opérations d'estimation et d'inscription terminées, il sera remis aux personnes qui doivent payer l'impôt sur immeubles et bénéfices, un bulletin à souche d'imposition imprimé et numéroté, à coupon séparé pour chaque appoint et distinct pour chaque an. Au fur et à mesure que l'encaissement est effectué, les colonnes respectives de ces bulletins sont remplies suivant les opérations qui ont lieu.

Art. 428. Les personnes qui ne s'acquittent pas aux époques fixées de l'impôt sur immeubles et de corporation (bénéfice) qui leur incombe, seront averties par les percepteurs, au moyen d'un acte conforme à un type déterminé. Si les contribuables ne s'exécutent pas dans les quarante-huit heures, une partie des objets qui se trouvent dans leurs domiciles ou boutiques, équivalente en valeur au montant de leurs dettes, sera saisie et mise en vente publique, en présence des Moukhtars du quartier ou du Chef de la Corporation; et le produit net sera appliqué au paiement de la dette. Un procès-verbal sera dressé pour ces opérations et il sera cacheté par les Percepteurs et les Imams ainsi que par les Chefs de Corporation présents.

Art. 429. Les fonctionnaires qui agiraient contrairement aux dispositions du présent Titre, et qui négligeraient les opérations telles que la mise en pratique de ces détails, suivant les circonstances, seront renvoyés du service, et seront en outre passibles des peines édictées par la loi pénale.

Art. 430. Toutes les dispositions des Règlements existants sur l'impôt sur immeubles et bénéfices, et qui ne sont pas contraires à celles du présent Titre, continueront à être en vigueur comme par le passé.

Titre XXII.—*De l'Administration des Biens Meubles et Immeubles des Vilayets.*

Art. 431. Les biens meubles et immeubles des vilayets et les bâtiments publics, à l'exception des bois, des forêts et des mines, seront administrés par le fonctionnaire dont dépend le service auquel sont destinés ces biens. Dès qu'ils cessent d'être affectés à ce service, ils passent sous l'administration du Defterdar, jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient appropriés à quelque nouveau service.

Chaque Direction est chargée de la conservation et de l'entretien des meubles employés à son propre usage, ou à celui des services qui dépendent d'elle.

Art. 432. Le Defterdar dresse un état de tous les biens immeubles appartenant au vilayet, avec indication du service spécial auquel chacun d'eux est destiné. Cet état contient tous les renseignements nécessaires sur la nature et la valeur des dits biens.

Chaque Direction dresse l'inventaire des meubles, matériaux et effets mobiliers appartenant au vilayet, et dont elle a l'administration. Elle remet un double de cet inventaire au Defterdar.

Des instructions spéciales détermineront le mode d'après lequel ces inventaires seront dressés et conservés.

Art. 433 On pourvoit par des contrats à toutes fournitures, provisions, ventes, locations, et travaux de toutes sortes concernant les différentes Administrations et les différents services du vilayet.

Art. 434. Les contrats destinés à procurer des recettes ou à occasionner des dépenses au vilayet, doivent être précédés d'une adjudication, sauf les cas d'exception prévus par les lois, et particulièrement ceux prévus par les deux Articles ci-après.

Art. 435. Il est loisible à l'Administration de conclure des contrats sans adjudication:—

1. Pour achat d'articles provenant d'établissements industriels privilégiés ou qu'à raison même de leur nature, l'Administration ne peut pas se procurer par la voie d'une adjudication;

2. Pour fournitures de toute espèce, pour transports ou travaux, lorsque des motifs d'urgence ne permettent pas de remplir les formalités que soulèverait une adjudication;

3. Pour l'approvisionnement en matières ou en denrées qui à cause de leur nature et de l'usage spécial auquel elles sont destinées, doivent être achetées et employées aux lieux mêmes de la production, ou fournies directement par leurs producteurs;

4. Pour acquisition des produits de l'art, de machines, d'instruments, et de travaux de précision dont l'exécution doit être confiée à des ouvriers ou à des artistes spéciaux;

5. Pour la location d'immeubles, toutes les fois que des raisons spéciales ne permettent pas de les soumettre à une adjudication.

Il est en outre loisible à l'Administration de conclure des contrats sans adjudication pour défaut de concours à une adjudication proposée, ou pour défaut d'offres qui atteignent la limite des prix fixés à l'Administration elle-même; néanmoins dans ce cas, les conditions et la limite maxima des prix fixés dans l'adjudication ne peuvent être changés dans le contrat privé, si ce n'est à l'avantage de la province.

Art. 436. On peut encore conclure des contrats sans adjudication si des circonstances spéciales rendent trop incommode l'emploi des formalités de l'adjudication. Cette règle s'applique aux cas suivants:—

1. Lorsqu'il s'agit d'une dépense n'excédant pas la somme de 20,000 piastres ou d'une dépense annuelle n'excédant pas la somme de 4,000 piastres qui ne doit rester à la charge de la province que pour cinq ans au plus; toutefois il ne doit exister alors pour le même objet aucun autre contrat qui fasse dépasser à la somme totale nécessaire pour cette dépense, les limites prescrites ci-dessus;

2. Pour la vente des biens hors d'usage, lorsque la valeur d'estimation ne dépasse pas 10,000 piastres; mais dans ce cas, on devra toujours observer la remarque faite au No. 1 du présent Article.

3. Pour la location des immeubles de village, des bâtiments, ponts et autres, pourvu que le montant du prix de location annuel soit évalué à une somme n'excédant pas 2,000 piastres, que la durée du contrat ne dépasse pas cinq années, et qu'une partie des dits biens ne soit pas louée en vertu d'un autre contrat dont le montant et la durée, ajoutés à ceux du nouveau contrat, ne sortent pas des limites déterminées dans le présent paragraphe;

4. Pour les cultures, fabrications ou fournitures à titre d'essai;

5. Pour les fournitures nécessaires à la subsistance des détenus, lorsqu'elles sont commandées à des établissements de bienfaisance, ou pour les travaux dont on charge les susdits détenus.

Art. 437. Les fournitures, les transports, et les travaux sont donnés séparément à forfait, en tenant compte de leur nature, et ils sont divisés, si faire se peut, en lots afin de faciliter le concours aux adjudications.

Art. 438. Lorsque dans les clauses de contrats conclus pour plusieurs années, il est établi que le fournisseur doit toujours tenir à la disposition de l'Administration une certaine quantité de matières ou qu'il doit posséder les moyens nécessaires pour livrer en temps utile les fournitures, ou pour accomplir, dans les délais convenus, les travaux dont il est question dans le contrat, on admettra à concourir à l'adjudication seulement les personnes qui, après trois publications dans le journal officiel du vilayet, auront prouvés qu'elles remplissent les conditions requises pour l'entière et parfaite exécution des dites clauses.

Art. 439. Dans aucun contrat relatif à des fournitures, transports, ou travaux, on ne peut introduire des clauses stipulant des à-comptes d'argent, si ce n'est pour des travaux déjà exécutés et des fournitures précédemment livrées.

Cette défense ne concerne ni les contrats pour fournitures nécessaires à la subsistance des détenus, lorsqu'elles sont commandées à des établissements de bienfaisance, ni les contrats qu'on croit utiles de passer avec des maisons ou des établissements commerciaux d'une solidité connue, lorsque ces maisons ou établissements ne consentent pas à se charger des travaux ou des livraisons pour lesquels on a recours à eux, à moins de recevoir d'avance une partie de la somme convenue.

Art. 440. Il ne sera pas accordé des intérêts et des commissions de banque aux

fournisseurs ou entrepreneurs (sur les sommes d'argent dont ils sont tenus de faire l'avance) pour l'exécution des contrats.

Art. 441. On doit communiquer au Conseil d'Administration, pour avoir son avis, les projets de contrats à passer après adjudication publique, lorsqu'ils dépassent la somme de 60,000 piastres, et les projets de contrats à passer sans adjudication, lorsqu'ils engagent des sommes supérieures à 12,000 piastres. Les Directeurs transmettent à la Comptabilité, pour y être enrigistrés, l'avis du Conseil d'Administration et l'arrêté d'approbation.

Art. 442. A la fin de chaque année le Defterdar communique au Conseil Général de Vilayet, la liste des contrats qui ont été enregistrés par la Comptabilité et sur lesquels le Conseil d'Administration a préalablement donné son avis.

Dans chaque contrat on indique l'objet, la durée, le prix proposée par l'Administration, le prix arrêté, le nom et le domicile des contractants; et on mentionne s'il a été passé avec ou sans adjudication; dans ce dernier cas, on indique celles des conditions du présent Règlement qui ont permis de le conclure sans adjudication.

Art. 443. Les contrats sont passés par devant les fonctionnaires chargés de ce service, et conformément aux dispositions du Règlement. Les actes passés par devant les dits fonctionnaires sont considérés comme authentiques.

Art. 444. Les contrats deviennent exécutoires dès que le Directeur ou les fonctionnaires délégués par lui les ont approuvés, et dès qu'ils auront été enregistrés par la Comptabilité.

Lorsqu'il s'agit d'objets devant être immédiatement livrés à l'acheteur à raison de leur nature ou de l'endroit où la vente a lieu, le contrat doit être approuvé et rendu exécutoire par celui qui préside à l'adjudication ou à la vente.

Cette faculté de rendre le contrat exécutoire ne peut être donnée qu'en vertu d'un Décret émanant d'une des Directions, et après enregistrement de ce Décret par la Comptabilité; mais on doit toujours demander préalablement l'avis du Conseil d'Administration. Copie du contrat doit être annexée aux pièces justificatives concernant les recettes ou les dépenses qui peuvent en résulter.

Art. 445. La vente des immeubles du vilayet, les aliénations et les échanges des immeubles qui ont été acquis après adjudication dans les procédures d'expropriation pour la perception des créances et des impôts selon les dispositions des Règlements, sont subordonnés aux lois spéciales y relatives.

Art. 446. Si pendant l'exécution d'un contrat sur lequel le Conseil d'Administration n'a pas donné préalablement son avis, il est reconnu nécessaire d'y ajouter quelques changements qui augmentent la dépense qu'il prévoit, de sorte que la somme totale à débourser dépasse les limites fixées par l'Article 441, on doit soumettre les comptes relatifs à cette affaire au Conseil d'Administration, afin d'avoir son avis, avant de solder intégralement la dépense à effectuer.

Art. 447. Lorsqu'un contrat pour lequel on a déjà demandé l'avis du Conseil d'Administration doit être annulé ou changé pour des raisons non prévues par le dit contrat, il est nécessaire d'en référer de nouveau au même Conseil.

Art. 448. Le Conseil Général du vilayet déterminera quels travaux devront, à raison de leur nature, être exécutés en régie.

Titre XXIII.—*De la Comptabilité.*

Art. 449. Les affaires de comptabilité du vilayet, son budget et son compte annuel seront réglés conformément aux Règlements spéciaux qui les concernent et aux instructions qui seront données par le Ministère des Finances.

No. 653.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 72.)
Therapia, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord E. Fitzmaurice's despatch No. 24, which he forwards to your Lordship this day, I think it right to point out that, in my judgment, a distinction should be drawn between the late and the present Ministers with reference to the delay which has taken place. Nothing could have been worse than the way in which Said Pasha and Sawas Pasha dragged the Commission on without allowing them to proceed with their work; but I am bound to say that I think Cadri Pasha made a fair defence to the very stormy remonstrances which I addressed to him yesterday on the subject of the delay from which the Commissioners have suffered, and the harm which the Porte brought on itself by such conduct.

He stated to me, in reply, that the new Ministry had to make itself responsible for the Projet de Loi, and that he had consequently had to examine it carefully, that he had naturally been overwhelmed with an immense amount of work on first taking the Premiership, but that, nevertheless, he and his colleagues had expedited the presentation of the Projet de Loi to the very best of their ability.

I am of opinion that there is no longer, as there was before, a settled plan for delay as to reforms on the part of the Porte, though it is exceedingly probable that the reforms will not be satisfactory.

The Government are at work on a project for the Asiatic provinces, which is to be communicated to me in a few days. The policy of the new Government will, I believe, be not to delay or to refuse reforms, but to produce counter-proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 654.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 73. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the Sultan's Private Secretary in reply to my letter to him of the 9th instant, of which your Lordship has had a copy, and in which I stated, at the Sultan's desire, what interpretation should be put on certain phrases which I had used in a previous conversation with His Majesty. I should add that before I received this letter I had heard from several persons who had had the opportunity of seeing the Sultan, and were in his intimacy, that the thought of responsibility having been put upon him by England has very seriously affected His Majesty. He dwells continually on the subject with the members of his household, and appears unable to dismiss it from his thoughts. Both Musurus Pasha, whom the Sultan has continually employed to see me unofficially, and Abeddin Pasha, begged me not to send a reply to any further letter which I might receive from His Majesty in answer to mine. When the letter in question reached me I carefully considered whether it was necessary to continue the correspondence. There were only two points on which I thought it might be well to make some observations, namely, the misrepresentation with regard to any phrases of mine or of your Lordship having questioned the rights and prerogatives of the Sultan, and the suggestion that the Cyprus Convention had been in some way in my mind, and had appeared to have led to the language used as to the supremacy of the Sultan. But looking to the apparently morbid state of mind of His Majesty with reference to this correspondence and his fear as to further communication from me, I saw Abeddin Pasha again before writing an answer, and I arranged with him that I would simply tell him, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, that I did not desire to continue the correspondence, but that I wished him to inform the Sultan that none of my observations had in any way questioned the rights or prerogatives of His Majesty.

Your Lordship is aware that from the first I warned His Majesty, through Musurus Pasha, that it was unwise to embark in this correspondence at all.

The Sultan, during the audience at which he received me yesterday, showed constant signs of his anxiety to make his Ministers responsible for everything. I refrained from any allusions to his own responsibility. I thought they would, under

the circumstances, have done harm. His Majesty appeared silent, dejected, and very reserved. He spoke of his friendship for England, and his reliance on our aid in the very difficult circumstances in which he was, but I did not feel as if I enjoyed his confidence in any degree.

As I telegraphed to your Lordship to-day, I brought the alternative proposal for the cession of Dulcigno to his notice. His Majesty remained absolutely silent while I unfolded the plan and its advantages, making no remarks when I paused at different points. In the end he asked me whether I had spoken to the Ministers on the subject, and begged me to communicate with them.

His Majesty, however, did refer to a third proposal, which he said he believed had been unofficially communicated to me by Musurus Pasha, namely, for a cession of the district called "Vassowitch Inférieure." I told His Majesty (as I had previously told Kadri Pasha) that I felt certain it was impossible, and that it would be only losing time to consider it at all; that Austria I knew would most strongly object, but that the whole responsibility must not be put on Austria, as other Powers would probably also object to the narrowing of the strip of land between Servia and Montenegro, the widening of which, as compared with the strip left by the Treaty of San Stefano, had been one of the objects of the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty replied that to Turkey it would not signify at all to lose the district in question, notwithstanding the consequences I had pointed out, as it was inhabited by Slavs, well-disposed even now to Montenegro and hostile to their Turkish rulers. Thus, in surrendering this bit of land, they would not be weakening themselves, not handing over, as in the Albanian case, a population who hated those to whose rule they were to be transferred.

His Majesty said nothing in reply to my suggestion, that the cession of territory inhabited partly by Albanians, such as Dulcigno, might be made more palatable to the Albanians by being accompanied by administrative arrangements, satisfying their legitimate aspirations for a certain amount of self-Government, while maintaining their connection with the Porte, but I have since understood that it was a topic on which His Majesty is very sensitive. Possibly Musurus Pasha has repeated to His Majesty the phrase which he used to Mr. Gladstone, and which is constantly in his mouth, that "autonomy is anatomy."

I took the opportunity of the name of Musurus Pasha turning up in the conversation to state to His Majesty in what great respect his Excellency is held amongst us in England, that his amiable disposition made him popular everywhere, only he was so amiable that he was apt to take too rose-coloured a view of affairs, and to pass too lightly over dangers which appeared very serious to others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 654.

Ali Fuad to Mr. Goschen.

(Traduction.)
Excellence, *Palais Impérial de Yildiz, le 22 Juin*, 1880.

J'AI pris connaissance de votre lettre datée du 9 de ce mois.

Sa Majesté le Calife a éprouvé une vive satisfaction en apprenant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique agira avec impartialité et désintéressement dans l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, et qu'il lui prêtera son concours à ce sujet.

Sa Majesté le Sultan a immédiatement informé la Sublime Porte de ce fait, et il en remercie très-sincèrement Sa Majesté la Reine.

Je considère, Excellence, comme un devoir de repousser, de la manière la plus formelle, le passage de la lettre de votre Excellence, où il est dit que l'Article de la Constitution qui donne à Sa Majesté le droit d'exil n'est pas resté sous le règne de Sa Majesté à l'état de lettre-morte, et qu'une responsabilité morale peut rejaillir sur le Souverain; car l'exil a été exécuté à l'instar des pays les plus constitutionnels du monde suivant les décisions formels des Tribunaux, et de la Cour-martiale, et uniquement par mesure d'ordre et de sûreté publics, alors surtout que le pays se trouve sous le coup des conséquences d'une guerre désastreuse, et que la mise à l'état de siège a été proclamée par la voie la plus légale.

A cette occasion, je juge opportun de rappeler que Sa Majesté Impériale a mis fin à l'exil de Mahmoud Nédim Pâsha et d'autres personnages, qui se trouvaient déjà bannis injustement, lors de son avènement au trône.

Suivant les dispositions soit du Hatti Humayoun de Gulhain promulgué par Son

auguste père, soit de la nouvelle Constitution, promulguée par Sa Majesté elle-même, les Ministres de Sa Majesté Impériale ont eu à tout époque une liberté pleine et entière de discussion, et la faculté de soumettre à la sanction Impériale tout projet, toute affaire d'Etat, soit collectivement, soit isolément.

Ce n'est que dans des cas exceptionnellement graves, et lorsqu'il s'est agi de sauvegarder l'honneur de l'Empire, que Sa Majesté Impériale a cru devoir prendre une décision contraire à l'avis de ses Ministres, et sauver le prestige de l'Empire, ainsi que les droits souverains, comme, par exemple, lorsqu'il a été question de livrer la flotte cuirassée aux Russes, et de laisser entrer leurs troupes dans la capitale, cependant le passage concernant la suprématie de Sa Majesté Impériale, et contenu soit dans la seconde lettre de votre Excellence datée du 9 de ce mois, soit dans celle qui, sur la demande de Sa Majesté Impériale, contenait des explications sur quelques points de votre discours, et que votre Excellence m'a envoyée deux jours après l'audience privée qu'elle a obtenu de Sa Majesté Impériale le 3 Juin, audience qui, le même jour, a suivi l'audience solennelle, le passage, dis-je, qui est contraire aux droits et aux prérogatives de Sa Majesté Impériale s'il est cité, en se basant sur le Traité de Chypre, ce fait ne paraît point conforme à l'état réel des choses; aussi ai-je cru devoir le rejeter d'une manière formelle. A ce sujet, permettez-moi, M. l'Ambassadeur, de rappeler au souvenir de votre Excellence un fait capital, c'est-à-dire d'attirer son attention sur le document ci-après, signé par Sir H. Layard, et contenant la forme sous laquelle le même Traité a été ratifié par Sa Majesté Impériale.

Quant aux questions pendantes, dont la prompte solution est d'un intérêt primordial pour l'Empire, et par conséquent pour Sa Majesté Impériale mon auguste Maître, des ordres formels ont été donné, à la Sublime Porte, à l'effet de leur solution, conformément aux intérêts de l'Empire. Sa Majesté Impériale compte sur son nouveau Ministère pour atteindre ce noble but, tant désiré.

Veuillez, &c.

Je ratifie le Traité, à condition qu'il ne sera nullement porté atteinte à mes droits souverains.

Le 3 Juillet, 1274

(Signé)

Therapia, le 15 *Juillet*, 1878.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique déclare qu'on ne cherchera nullement porter atteinte aux droits souverains du Sultan, comme Sa Majesté Impériale l'entend par la ratification du Traité d'Alliance défensive du 15 Juillet, 1878.

(Signé) LAYARD.

No. 655.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 546.)

Paris, June 29, 1880.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, I spoke to M. de Freycinet yesterday on the subject of the proposed inquiry into the condition of the Mussulmans and Greeks in Eastern Roumelia.

Adverting to his Excellency's question, whether your Lordship agreed that an inquiry by two Powers apart from the rest would be unadvisable, I said that Her Majesty's Government considered that they themselves were bound by their public declarations to prosecute the inquiry, and to see that the Mussulman population received equal justice with the Christian. They did not, however, wish to press the French Government to adopt any particular line of conduct.

It had, I went on to say, been alleged that some of the reports made to Lord Salisbury were of an exaggerated character, and Her Majesty's Government were particularly anxious that the French Consular officers would give to Colonel Wilson, who was to conduct the inquiry on the part of Great Britain, all the information in their power to enable him to arrive at the truth.

M. de Freycinet said that, as your Lordship seemed to leave the decision to him, he would act upon his own opinion, that the effect of two Powers joining together in an inquiry, from which the rest held aloof, would be bad. France would, therefore, not take

any direct part in the inquiry. He would, however (he said in conclusion), send instructions forthwith to the French Consular officers to give Colonel Wilson full information and to afford him the best assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 656.

M. Challemel-Lacour to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 30 *Juin*, 1880.

M. DE FREYCINET vient de me communiquer télégraphiquement, et je m'empresse de transmettre à votre Excellence, le texte de la note qui a été adoptée hier par la Conférence de Berlin, et qui devra être remise aux Gouvernements de Turquie et de Grèce pour leur notifier le tracé de la frontière fixé par les Puissances Médiatrices :—

" Le Congrès de Berlin ayant indiqué dans son 13e Protocole les points principaux de la ligne-frontière qu'il jugeait nécessaire d'établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce, les Puissances ont fait appel d'abord à des négociations directes sur cette base entre les deux Etats. A deux reprises, dans les Conférences de Prevéza et de Constantinople, les Commissaires Turcs et Grecs, après de longs pourparlers, n'ont abouti qu'à constater leurs divergences. En présence de ces tentatives infructueuses, les Puissances désignées par le Traité de Berlin ont jugé nécessaires d'interposer leur médiation. Cette médiation, pour être efficace, devait s'exercer dans toute sa plénitude et les Cabinets, en présence des dispositions réciproques des deux Etats intéressés, ont prescrit à leurs Représentants, réunis en Conférence à Berlin, de fixer, en se conformant aux indications générales du 13e Protocole, une ligne qui constituât, entre la Grèce et la Turquie, une bonne et solide frontière défensive.

" Les Plénipotentiaires, après la discussion la plus attentive, éclairés d'ailleurs par les avis des Commissaires Techniques délégués par leurs Gouvernements, ont voté à l'unanimité, suivant les termes de leur mandat, le tracé contenu dans l'acte suivant, qui résume et clôt leurs délibérations (intercaler le texte de l'Acte Final).

" En conséquence, le Gouvernement de , &c., invite le Gouvernement de (Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, ou Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes) à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée dans le document ci-dessus, et que les Puissances Médiatrices, réunies en Conférence, ont unanimement reconnue conforme à l'esprit et aux termes du Traité de Berlin et du 13e Protocole du Congrès.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) P. CHALLEMEL-LACOUR.

No. 657.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30, 5 A.M.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, June 29, 1880, 11 A.M.

SIX hundred more irregulars left yesterday for Dulcigno. Everything now done in this direction is, in fact, Governmental and not purely Albanian.

No. 658.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30, 5 A.M.)

(No. 30 ?)

(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, June 29, 1880, 9·30 P.M.

A MONTENEGRIN outpost on the road from this to Antivari has, on the summons of the Albanian irregulars, withdrawn from position it has held for two years past. I fear Turkish authorities are secretly urging the Albanians to commit acts of aggression.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 659.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 6. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 30, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 13th, M. Tricoupi is writing to King to advise strongly that the reserves should be called out on an early day. He thinks the Chamber might at the same time be convoked to meet in two months from date of reserves being called out.

It is necessary to be fully prepared to meet resistance that may be expected to occupation of territory to be ceded.

No. 660.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30, 9 P.M.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 30, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

IF other Governments concur, Baron Haymerle is quite willing that the decisions of the Conference should be communicated to Turkey and Greece by collective instead of identic notes.

No. 661.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30, 9·30 P.M.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 30, 1880, 7 P.M.

THE instructions to Count Dubskull about information to be furnished by Austrian Consuls to Colonel Wilson were not so explicit as I reported in my telegram No. 89, but Baron Haymerle will send the necessary instructions as soon as he is informed that Colonel Wilson is about to commence his inquiry.

No. 662.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880, 3·55 P.M.

PRESENTATION of note respecting Montenegrin cession, as reported in your telegram No. 84, is approved.

No. 663.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880.

FOLLOWING is substance of telegram from Porte of 27th, communicated by Musurus Bey:—

"We are informed that Conference is on the point of deciding cession to Greece of important positions, such as Janina, Larissa, and Prevesa. Although we have received no official communication, we think it right to state our views frankly and loyally.

"As soon as the question of rectification was raised, the Turkish Government made reserves fully justified by the origin and nature of the mandate intrusted to the Congress of Berlin. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries only signed the Treaty on the understanding that there was no question of decision, but purely and simply of a wish for rectification, to be agreed upon between the two Powers.

"Now this wish seems to have changed in its nature, and the projected rectification is to end in the cession of two provinces which are precious to us in all respects. Large territories are adjudged to Greece without this rearrangement being justified by war between Greece and Turkey. It is evident that the Turkish Govern-

ment cannot concur in such a decision. In addition to the dislocation of its States, it foresees with anxiety the despair of the Albanians, and the conflict which will ensue between them and Greece.

"The Porte declines the responsibility of the consequences, and appeals to the justice of the Powers to prevent an extreme decision calculated to provoke despair."

No. 664.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

DRAFT of note to Turkish and Greek Governments, drawn up and adopted by Conference, and agreed to by Her Majesty's Government, after recital of object of meeting, states that the Government of, &c., invites the Government of, &c., to accept the positive line indicated in the annexed document, and which the Mediating Powers assembled in Conference have unanimously recognized as in conformity with the spirit and terms of the Treaty of Berlin and of the 13th Protocol.

The Conference meets to-morrow to finally settle the draft.

No. 665.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 27. Conference.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June* 30, 1880, 5·15 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 20, Conference.

I have suggested a collective instead of an identic note.

Please let me know whether your Lordship has any further instructions before the Conference meets for the last time.

No. 666.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 26, Conference, draft of note has been received from French Ambassador.

You may agree to it.

No. 667.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880, 7·5 P.M.

COME home as speedily as you can; Her Majesty's Government want to consult you.

No. 668.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 24. Conference.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 21, Conference, Confidential, of the 19th instant, reporting that you had given your best attention to the representations made to you by Sir A. Brailas, and that you had also had conversations with the Turkish Ambassador upon the subject of the Greek Frontier question; and I have to inform

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

your Excellency that your proceedings in the matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 669.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 27. Conference.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

SINCE the receipt of your Excellency's telegram No. 26, Conference, of yesterday, the complete text of the note containing the award of the Conference which has been drafted for presentation to the Governments of Turkey and Greece has been communicated to me by the French Ambassador. Her Majesty's Government approve of the draft, and I have accordingly instructed your Excellency, by telegraph, to agree to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 670.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 158.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador at this Court has communicated to me the draft of the collective note to the Turkish and Greek Governments which has been drawn up and adopted by the Conference assembled at Berlin to determine the line of the new Greek frontier. I inclose a copy of this document, which has been agreed to by Her Majesty's Government, and has been already communicated to you in substance by telegraph.

The Conference will meet to-morrow to finally settle the draft.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 671.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 160.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 47 of the 14th instant, in which your Excellency incloses a copy of the letter you addressed to the Sultan's Private Secretary on the 9th instant, explaining the interpretation to be placed on certain passages of your memorandum of your private audience with the Sultan, as had been requested by His Majesty; and I have to inform you that the terms of your letter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 672.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 161.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will call the attention of the Porte to the conduct of Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha.

As appears from Mr. Consul St. John's despatch No. 65, Political, of the 22nd ultimo, the Pasha has not given any reply to the note which that gentleman addressed to him with regard to the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster, against whom no legal

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

evidence of guilt was brought; and it now appears to be intended to subject him to a mock trial at Monastir, where he is in prison in irons by order of Moukhtar Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 673.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 76.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 85 of the 26th instant, inclosing a copy of a note you had addressed to M. Zancoff in compliance with my instructions, expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Bulgarian Government would give satisfactory assurances with regard to measures being taken to secure a cessation of the persecutions to which the Mussulmans in the Principality have so long been subjected; and I have to inform you that the terms of your note are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 674.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 77.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 86 of the 29th ultimo relative to the difference which had arisen between Bulgaria and Servia and Roumania owing to the introduction in the Bulgarian Chamber of a Bill to enable persons of Bulgarian origin, but natives of Servian or Roumanian territory, to assume Bulgarian nationality by the mere fact of emigration to Bulgarian territory.

The representations which you made to M. Zancoff on the subject of this Bill are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 675.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 78.)
Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 87 of the 31st ultimo, in which you report that you had communicated to M. Zancoff the details furnished to you by Mr. Brophy respecting the destruction and pillage of Mussulman villages in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, has been received; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the steps you have taken in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 676.

Earl Granville to General Sir L. Simmons.

Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch of the 15th instant, in which you describe the negotiations which recently took place at Paris between Her Majesty's Ambassador and yourself on the one hand, and M. de Freycinet on the other, and which were concluded by the drawing up of an Agreement for a line of frontier to be proposed in the Conference by France and England.

I have to inform you that your proceedings in these negotiations are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 677.

Earl Granville to M. Challemel-Lacour.

Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin has been authorized by telegraph to agree to the text of the note to be presented to the Turkish and Greek Governments which you were good enough to communicate to me in your note of this day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.